





I write this letter with a heart deeply devastated but lacking bitterness. I sincerely love you.

You and I have diligently sought to labor together in life-giving, family-flourishing, deep-connecting, and Jesus-honoring ways. Without doubt, our sincerity in such labor is what creates the intense pain for us both in this situation.





I am and will always be grateful for you. There are numerous and profound ways your life has impacted me as a father and as a pastor. There is so much I have learned from you, too much to name here.

One of the things you often say is to deal with “reality as reality really is.” Since we both share a desire to leave the door open for a redemptive outcome, the Lord has made it clear to me I can only do so by sharing honestly and openly with you.

I do not desire to save my job. I do not care to save face. We all agree my family needs a break. If this is how the Lord sees fit to bring it about, blessed be his name.

My greatest desire would be to save the soul of . Yes, I genuinely believe that is at stake here. This is a cultural moment for you, . Yet I too am fully aware of my lack of power to rescue.

Therefore, let us deal with reality as reality really is:

- The speed of this process (25 days, 4 meetings) is inconsistent with any significant decision I have seen  leadership make for the 5 years I have been in relationship with .
- The lack of clarity in this process is inconsistent with how  leadership normally behaves, and the parameters for me have been changed 3 different times in 6 weeks.
- The lack of clarity on the issues being addressed does not align with how  leadership aspires to act, and my honest questions for clarity were left unanswered, passive-aggressively dismissed, or unfairly shamed as looking for a loop hole.
- The demand that I take ownership without a willingness to name a specific charge is an abuse of power inconsistent with biblical expectations of leadership, and I remain open to engage with you in the Scriptures to prayerfully consider any specific allegation.
- The sincere efforts I have made to take responsibility for my actions and seek forgiveness (see emails sent on February 17 and March 5) were labeled as “not coming from the heart” and met with non-response respectively.
- The lack of genuine curiosity is inconsistent with the expectations of biblical leadership, and the numerous assumptions made during this process could have been confirmed or dismissed by searching out the matter.

- The unfounded accusations of motive and character levied against me during this process by those nearest me in relationship has been most painful, and I would have been better served by the mandatory leave of absence for its intended investigative purpose.
- The withdrawal of relationship and withholding of compassion from a man and his family during a time of ongoing trial and suffering is inconsistent with the winsome culture of [REDACTED] the stated values of authenticity, grace, and forgiveness, and the emphasis upon “who we are is greater than what we do.”

I simply cannot voluntarily resign with a clear conscience. I have pleaded with you for clarity, for a relational process, for reconciliation, for your heart.

I want to be clear that my failure to communicate, my inability amidst overwhelming circumstances to perceive the misuse of [REDACTED] church resources, and my slowness to grasp issues amidst the speed, confusion, and isolation of this process do not require the outcome you have chosen.

Since you confirmed that you can terminate me with a clear conscience, I will defer as a fellow pastor one last time to your leadership.

Your brother in Christ Jesus,



Matt Wallace
March 13, 2022

Enclosures:

Reimbursement check #157
[REDACTED] resources breakdown

I have included a check to reimburse [REDACTED] for the cost of goods and services used to create a video for my family on January 4, 2022. The accompanying spreadsheet was prepared by another church in the area at their own initiative to provide a basis for our calculation. The fourfold amount is humbly intended to make full restitution.