

Review of Pattillo Church History Paper

Fathers and Brothers,

Below is our review of Mr. Pattillo’s Church History paper on the pastoral practice of the Cappadocian Fathers.

Student Handbook Requirements:	Reviewers’ Comments:
The purpose of this exam is to test the student’s ability to comprehend and interpret a given aspect of church history in a scholarly way and articulate his understanding in a paper that reflects excellence in research as well as communication skills.	Mr. Pattillo has written an interesting, and generally well researched paper about aspects of pastoral practice in the ministry of the Cappadocian Fathers.
The paper should be 10-20 pages (not including title page, appendices, and bibliography), double-spaced, 12 point font, with standard margins.	The paper is 15 pages, with correct formatting.
Students should establish a clear thesis that is within the boundaries established by the given topic, and the paper should affirm that thesis The student should also provide some indication as to the implications for the church today which arise from understanding this history and the thesis he has established	Mr. Pattillo established a clear thesis: That the contemporary minister can learn from the pastoral ministry, theological scholarship, and practical Christian living of the Cappadocian Fathers. Mr. Pattillo does a good job of making his research readily applicable to contemporary pastoral ministry. He does this by praising admirable aspects of the Cappadocians’ ministry, while pointing out deficiencies in their ministry which should not be emulated.
Footnotes should be used rather than endnotes Footnotes should be in a widely accepted standard format (e g , Chicago style, SBL, Turabian, etc.) Proper credit is to be given for all quotations	The paper has footnotes in the Chicago Style. There are some errors in these citations, and a review of Turabian’s <i>A Manual for Writers</i> would benefit Mr. Pattillo.
Students should use primary and secondary sources as well as general histories	Mr. Pattillo draws from a wide range of sources. Commendably, he readily and frequently uses primary sources, letting the Cappadocian Fathers’ voices come through. He supported his interpretation with helpful citations from secondary sources.
The paper should be written in proper English, with good grammar and correct spelling	At points the syntax can be somewhat choppy, and there are some grammatical errors. The paper would have benefitted from a closer proofreading.

Additional Comments:

Some critical feedback includes (1) Mr. Pattillo referencing COVID-19 pandemic as a continuing pastoral issue. While this was true when the paper was originally written, it probably limits its continuing usefulness. (2) Mr. Pattillo had excellent material on the body and soul care of the Cappadocians, but it could have used a clearer heading than, “the Cappadocians as

Pastor.” In a sense, that captures the entire paper, not just the first section. (3) On page 12, Mr. Pattillo cites Calvin’s warnings against monasticism as mark against the Cappadocians’ ministry. However, in the paragraph Mr. Pattillo cites, Calvin is being critical of 16th century monasticism. Calvin critiques contemporary monasticism for *departing* from earlier forms of monasticism. Calvin even cites the Cappadocians practice of monasticism in a more sympathetic light a few pages before Mr. Pattillo’s citation. Mr. Pattillo should be careful to cite sources in their context. (4) Mr. Pattillo should continue to strive to clarity in his style and writing, as the paper seemed unpolished at a few points.

However, even with these critical comments considered, Mr. Pattillo has written an admirable paper. Mr. Pattillo’s paper was illuminating on several aspects of the Cappadocian Fathers’ “philosophy of ministry.” His thesis is clear, as is his defense. It is easy to follow the flow of Mr. Pattillo’s thought and argument. He defends his thesis with a plethora of primary sources and expands his defense with carefully selected secondary citations. Additionally, Mr. Pattillo weaves contemporary application into his paper, while never losing sight of the primary aim of solid, historical research.

Recommendation: That this paper be sustained.

Respectfully,

Philip McCollum
Jonathan Sturm