

## **Big Mellow Church**

*A parody of “Big Yellow Taxi,” originally recorded by Joni Mitchell  
(2 Timothy 4:3-4)*

Joni Mitchell wrote the poignant song "Big Yellow Taxi" in the 1960's that played off of the concern for the environment and applied it to a concern for the family. Its message of the need to save what we are blessed with is so powerful that it has been re-recorded and made even more popular by singers such as Amy Grant and Counting Crows.

As important as the family is to our life, the church is at least as important. Yet perhaps even more so than nature or family, it is underappreciated and treated like a mere commodity. It is even treated as such by the overseers of churches who are entrusted with their care by God. If preserving our natural resources is good, and if preserving our family unit is better, then certainly preserving the ministry of the church is something to not take lightly.

With our environment and with our family, we make choices that seem helpful for the near-term and fail to give careful consideration to the long-term consequences of our decisions. This is so true with the methodology that has been employed by many, if not most, churches in America today. There are serious unintended consequences that follow the adaptation of appeals to the flesh that are difficult to observe until they have played themselves out over time.