

DOING GOOD: "It Starts At The Top" Part 2

INTRODUCTION: "Success in church life flows downhill."

- **Key Idea:** Doing Good requires following good leaders.
Acts 20:20-28; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4

THE APPOINTMENT OF PASTORAL LEADERSHIP (TITUS 1:5)

A. The Persons of Leadership

Description of a Leader:

- **Elders** (*presbuteros*) – refers to the seasoned maturity of a leader; cannot be a novice.
- **Bishop/Overseer** (*episkopos*) – denotes the activity of a leader; he thinks about the spiritual oversight of the congregation.
- **Pastor** (*poimen*) – speaks of the attitude of a leader; a shepherd cares for his sheep.

Note: These three terms speak of one man, one ministry. They are used interchangeably in the New Testament (cf. Acts 20:17, 28). There is no hierarchy of **bishops** over **pastors/elders**.

B. The Plurality of Leadership - Titus 1:5, Acts 14:23, Acts 20:17; James 5:14

Arguments for Plurality (Bruce Ware):

1. No one person is the complete package.
2. Speaks of a division of labor (cf. 1 Tim 5:17).
3. Mutual encouragement and accountability.

C. The Process of Leadership

- How are elders selected? *Essentially, elders choose elders.*
Acts 14:23, 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6
- Balancing truth: the priesthood of all believers (1 Pet 2:9). Wise leaders will listen to the congregation. This is different than the *congregation choosing elders*.

D. The Purpose of Leadership

What the elder does:

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| 1. Offers a mature example | 5. Is theologically astute |
| 2. Brings seasoned wisdom | 6. Is able to teach |
| 3. Sets things in order and matures the ministry | 7. Encourages godliness |
| 4. Exercises spiritual oversight | 8. Rebukes sin |

THE ASSESSMENT OF PASTORAL LEADERSHIP (TITUS 1:6-9)

- Character** – "blameless" (v.6) – not perfect but unimpeachable, "above reproach" (ESV).
 - Speaks of the direction, not perfection of a man's life.
 - "What every Christian is called to be, a leader must be."
- Connections** – "the husband of one life, having faithful children" (v.6).
 - Literally a "one-woman man" – speaking of faithfulness in thought and action to one woman.
 - Well-behaved children – "faithful", not necessarily believing children.
- Convictions** – "holding fast to the faithful word" (v.9)
 - The elder is called to proclaim the Bible in his generation with courage and conviction.

Sermon Application Questions

April 14, 2019

REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

One of the key ideas in this sermon is that **"Doing good requires following good leaders."** Who are some of the good spiritual leaders who have impacted your life? What are some specific things you have learned by following these leaders?

2

Read the list of spiritual qualifications in Titus 1:5-9 more carefully. Why do you think that the issue of **spiritually mature character** is so prominent in this list of qualifications? Are there any qualities on this list that stand out to you as being especially important in the culture that we live in?

DIGGING DEEPER

1

Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week's sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

1 Timothy 4:14-16

Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

1 Timothy 5:17-21

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages." Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality.

2 Timothy 1:13-14

Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

Hebrews 13:17

Obeys your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

2

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12. What are the characteristics of a spiritual leader as modeled by the apostle Paul?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1

Pastor Philip made the observation that *“what every Christian ought to be, the spiritual leader must be.”* In other words, every Christian is called to pursue the qualities listed in Titus 1:5-9. Evaluate your life in light of these qualities. Name **one or two areas** that you would like to grow in.

Character Quality	Definition
Above Reproach	• Free from any offensive or disgraceful blight of character or conduct.
Husband of one wife	• Literally a “one-woman man”; if married, faithful in thought and in action to one spouse.
Faithful children	• Manages household well and keeps children under control with all dignity.
Not arrogant	• Not stubborn, headstrong, independent or inconsiderate. (Opposite quality: humble)
Not quick-tempered	• Slow to anger and keeping one’s temper under control. (Opposite quality: patient).
Not a drunkard	• Above reproach in the use of alcohol; no known addictions or idolatries.
Not violent	• Not a fighter, bad-tempered, irritable, or out-of-control. “Not a hitter”.
Not greedy for gain	• Not using ministry and people for personal profit. (Opposite quality: content).
Hospitable	• “One who loves strangers”; a person who opens one’s home for ministry to others.
A lover of good	• Loving and practicing what is good; separated from all that is disreputable or wrong.
Self-Controlled	• Sensible and sober-minded; free from intoxicating influences in the mind.
Upright	• One who is morally and ethically righteous and just.
Holy	• Marked by practical holiness; separate from sin and evil behavior.
Disciplined	• Exercising self-control in all things; Having the capacity to say “No”.

Areas I would like to grow in: _____

2

Hebrews 13:17 says that your leaders are “keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account.” What are some ways that you can make it a joy for your leaders to account for your spiritual well-being? Brainstorm some practical ideas and share with others.

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