

Well Led & Well Fed: Part 2

Effective church leadership isn't about titles or structures but about the tested character of those who lead. A true pastor must embody godly integrity, protect the flock with sound doctrine, and lead by example, ensuring the church is both well-led and well-fed.

Titus 1:7-16

ANNOUNCE

Women's study

cca volunteers - nursery

second sunday

voter registration

BIBLE PASSAGE

Titus 1:7-16 (NKJV - New King James Version)

⁷ For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,

⁸ but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled,

⁹ holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

¹⁰ For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

¹¹ whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.

¹² One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

¹³ This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith,

¹⁴ not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.

¹⁵ To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.

¹⁶ They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

INTRO

Last week, we made it through the first half of Paul's qualifications for Overseers in the church.

- We looked at defining the titles of leadership; today, we are looking at defining the qualifications for leadership and the responsibilities of leadership in the church.

In the church today, sometimes we get hung up on semantics (Bishop, pastor, elder) when the Bible seems to speak of the role of an overseer being a combination of all of these titles and words working together.

- Elder - Maturity
- Bishop (Overseer) - Ministry
- Pastor (Shepherd) - Method

Last week, we emphasized that Paul prioritizes the overseer's character over the model of church government. In other words, the most important question isn't "Is our church led by a plurality of elders or a Senior Pastor?" It's ***"Are our elders or Pastor biblically qualified men of proven character and calling?"***

- We live in a cultural context that often values charisma and giftedness over character and calling. We also tend to value education and accomplishment over doctrinal soundness and humility.

It's very important to Paul that the church's leaders aren't measured by worldly or carnal standards. Those who have passed the tests of spiritual qualification will be the consistent, long-term leaders in the church.

Last weekend we covered seven qualifications. Number 8 is found in verse 7:

1 Defining Leadership Qualifications

8. NOT VIOLENT

Notice that this qualification comes directly after not being given to alcohol. Violence and alcohol are frequently attached, so there may be a connection there, but in short, the Greek word indicates that a pastor is not to be a brawler or someone who lashes out to intentionally damage others. A pastor should be able to demonstrate restraint over his physical outbursts, physical strength, words, and actions so as not to become destructive toward other people.

- A pastor should only demonstrate violence against the kingdom of darkness through spiritual warfare.
- Violence can take many forms:
 - One can be violent with one's fists
 - One can be violent in their actions
 - One can be violent with their words.
- The Greek word means **"Violent: One who is always ready for a blow."** Someone who's looking to pick a fight.
- I heard it once appropriately said that the Christian leader should never be one to pick a fight but will not run from a fight when the battle comes to them.

- EXAMPLE: The church is under more and more persecution and scrutiny today because some pastors are drawing hard lines in the sand about the wicked and demonic agendas that are being targeted at our children and our society as a whole. We get accused of being too political, but for many of us, we didn't go knocking on the door of politics to pick a fight; politics came to our door and decided to intrude into theological and biblical truth. In those cases, we must have the courage to fight the battles for truth and righteousness.
- But the pastor should not be the constant intigator of problems in the church. A man who is a constant belligerent troublemaker does not carry the grace to lead in the church.
- DEFINITION: a troublemaker rocks the boat and tells everyone else there's a storm.

Regardless, the bottom line is the pulpit is no place for an abuser who uses violence and quarreling to advance their agenda.

9. NOT GREEDY FOR MONEY

After a church service, a little boy told the pastor, "When I grow up, I'm going to give you some money." "Well, thank you," the pastor replied, "but why?" "Because my daddy says you're one of the poorest preachers we've ever had."

Financial gain should never be a driving force to join the ministry. **Paul tells Timothy:**

[1Ti 5:17-18 NKJV] 17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. 18 For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

Paul quotes both the Old Testament and the words of Jesus. The Bible is clear, in the OT and the NT, that pastors (elders) are worthy of compensation for their work, but the work itself must never be motivated by riches on earth but by riches in heaven.

Greedy Comes from the two words which mean "filthy or shameful" and "gain." - A pastor should not be using the ministry as a cover for his carnal, full desires to use it to get rich.

- Peter calls it: ***Dishonest gain*** (1 Peter 5:2)

The ministry has always been a place where people have found opportunities. Christians are generous. Even at the church's inception, the Bible tells us that people sold their land

and brought the money to the disciples' feet. They entrusted their funds to the church leaders to use for the building up of the church and its people.

- **THIS IS GOOD:** People should be able to trust that their leaders are stewards and not thieves!
- It's not inherently wrong for a pastor to have money if it was gained through honesty, hard work, and accountability. However, it's shameful for a pastor to see the God-flock as a means to build his own wealth under the guise of shepherding. We commonly call this "Fleecing the flock for one's own selfish gain."

Paul warned Timothy of one of the characteristics of false teachers:

[1Ti 6:5 NKJV] 5 ...men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.

- Run from pastors who teach that the gospel is the means for wealth and who just so happen to acquire their wealth by taking advantage of God's people's generosity and good faith to support their lavish lifestyles.

10. HOSPITABLE

Welcoming. The pastor should live in relational openness as an example to the believers of love, generosity, empathy, and compassion.

The church willing to welcome the pastor should have a pastor willing to welcome the church. As a natural introvert, I understand the internal desire to want to get out of a crowd or be alone, but if love drives me, then I am called to step outside of my natural tendencies to practically demonstrate love and care by being available to people in need.

OBVIOUSLY, no ONE man can be emotionally and relationally available to every person in the church, but as a general rule, the pastor doesn't seek to run away and isolate himself from the people he's called to shepherd.

11. LOVER OF GOOD

A couple of weeks ago, we discussed that truth accords with godliness; everything **godly** is **good**.

- ***There is no such thing as a faithful pastor who affirms, embraces, and loves that which God hates. One can't love people and love evil at the same time.***
- But this is not just about hating evil (negative), but loving good (positive). It's natural for humans to run to extremes. Often, you find pastors who hate evil but do not encourage much good or who pride themselves on doing good but never seem to take a stand against what is evil.

The called pastor should always strive for the balance of loving and pursuing good, as well as hating and fleeing from that which is evil.

12. SOBER MINDED

Not only is their mind free from the control of alcohol, but it's also free from the influences of the world or being driven strictly by their circumstances or emotions.

- **Sober-minded—to be level-headed.** The pastor must think things through biblically and spiritually before reacting to his own feelings or perceptions of a person or situation.
- A sober-minded person does not react impulsively to a circumstance or emotion but is, at the same time, ready to quickly obey God's leading through spiritual discernment.

13. JUST

This word means fair without showing partiality. Paul told timothy:

[1Ti 5:21 NKJV] 21 I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.

The pastor cannot afford to play favorites in the church with family, friends, politicians, or potential donors.

The pastor over God's flock over God's flock must ensure that the truth applies to everyone equally.

14. HOLY

Holiness is to "be set apart for God."

- The pastor should not be sharing his affections with the world or straddling the fence with his moral lifestyle.

QUOTE

“Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not whether they be clergymen or laymen, they alone will shake the gates of hell...”

John Wesley

15. SELF CONTROLLED

While this is a fruit of the Spirit for all believers, the pastor must model this characteristic as an example to the flock.

- ***It is heartbreaking to have spiritual leaders who want to control the church's direction, control the church's money, and control the people but refuse to control themselves.***
- The pastor is to have disciplined restraint against the lusts of his flesh, selfish ambitions, unwise words, and emotional responses.
- ***Gossip, division, sin, and conflict are unavoidable potholes in church life, but pastors should not be the driving forces behind them!***

QUOTE

“The true minister of Christ knows that the greatest battle he fights is the one within. His greatest concern is his own soul, for he knows that if he loses that, he loses everything.”

If I could sum up these qualifications in one statement, I'd put it like this:

AW Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*

QUOTE

The pastor must not be a talented hireling who drives his sheep with violence, sacrifices them out of self-preservation, uses them for selfish gain, or directs them with manipulation and coercion. A true shepherd lays down his rights, gives up his life, protects, feeds, and leads God's sheep by setting an example with his life.

Pastor Josh

2 Defining Leadership Responsibilities

KNOWING AND WIELDING THE WORD

[Tit 1:9 NKJV] 9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

WereOne of the main roles of a pastor is to be a man of the Word. Verse 9 teaches us that He must:

- **Know the Word (He must be a learner) -**
 - *“He who has ceased to learn has ceased to teach. He who no longer sows in the study will no more reap in the pulpit.” -Spurgeon*
 - **A Pastor needs a heart and mind that is still submissive to the Word of God. The qualified pastor has gone through a process of learning sound doctrine from sound teachers. This doesn't mean a seminary degree, but it does mean that he has "studied to show himself approved unto God, a workman who needs not be ashamed."**
 - **Though he is a learner, his mind is not so open that the truth escapes it. Every learner must be anchored in the truth so they don't drift by "every wind of doctrine."**

- **Hold the Word (He must be anchored)-** A church is only as safe as its pastor is anchored to the gospel and the sound doctrine of God's Word. There are many today who are charismatic, masterful communicators. They craft words to move emotions. They bring "new and unique revelation," telling us that we thought we knew what God's Word meant, but they are about to tell you something you've never heard.
 - **But here, Paul tells Titus that the word is "faithful." If you want answers, look to the Word. If you want clarity, look to the Word. If you want wisdom, look to the Word. If you desire spiritual safety and blessing, look to the Word.**
 - Any "pastor" willing to compromise the clear Word of God, preferring their own thoughts, ideas, and wisdom, is like the captain of a ship who has shifted their rudder by a couple of degrees. As time passes, the church slowly drifts until it is completely off course and miles from the needed destination.
 - **[Eph 4:14 NKJV] 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,**

- **Use the Word (He must be bold) -** Whether we want to believe it or not, there are some who contradict sound doctrine in their teaching and their lifestyles. If the pastor isn't willing to bring forth the light and alarm of God's word, those who contradict sound doctrine will continue their ways without resistance or challenge, and many will be deceived and led astray. Pastors sometimes do this in different ways and with different temperaments.
 - Some pastors naturally lean toward the gentleness of peacemaking, while others embody the righteous zeal of table-flipping. Both are reflective of our Savior, Jesus. Yet, regardless of their natural temperament, every pastor is called to demonstrate the courage and willingness to take a firm stand against false teaching and protect the integrity of sound doctrine.

I like how one pastor put it: "**The Pastor is not afraid to go toe to toe with a problem child.**"

-Sandy Adams

- They must have a God-given ability to learn the faithful word, apply it to their own lives, and wield it to exhort and convict those who oppose the truth.
- The pulpit is not a place for self-preserving cowards whose highest ambition is to be liked by everyone.
- Paul tells us why these roles are so important:

BIBLE PASSAGE

Titus 1:10-11 (NKJV - New King James Version)

¹⁰ For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

¹¹ whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.

DIVISION AND DESTRUCTION IN A CHURCH

Rebellion and division can come from two primary sources in a church: Idle talkers and deceivers.

- Both destructive activities come from the root of insubordination (there are many insubordinate).
- **Insubordinate—to not put under**—means not willing to submit to authority other than themselves. Although they might say they are submitted to God, if they can't submit to God-given human authority when appropriate, they will ultimately not submit to God.
 - **[2Pe 2:10 NKJV] 10 ...and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed...**

- Those who don't have a humble or submissive spirit will ultimately be the same who spread and plant destructive seeds through their words and actions.

Idle Talkers:

- To speak and teach empty, senseless things:
 - They preach the philosophies of the world over the Word of God.
 - They are wrapped up in useless spiritual conspiracies that don't profit, encourage, or exhort anyone to be more like Jesus.
 - Jude describes them in this way:
- **[Jde 1:12 NKJV] ...They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds;**
 - **The clouds look like they have substance, but when they speak, no spiritual water nourishes the hearer. Deceit, division, confusion, envy, and descension follow their words everywhere they go.**
 - **Peter and Paul describe these people as those who use "great swelling words" to flatter and deceive people to their own advantage.**
- **[2Ti 4:2-4 NKJV] 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season [and] out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, [because] they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn [their] ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.**

When so-called pastors depart from the pure milk of God's word, the next step is to speak swelling words that sound sweet on the surface, but the substance is empty and senseless.

Deceivers:

- Idle-talkers seem to be more **overt** in their approach. Deceivers tend to be more **covert** in their approach. They don't appear as though they have evil intent. They often use language they know will settle the hearts of the cautious and purposefully manipulate people, twisting the scripture to their own deceitful aim. Paul speaks about them in this way:
- **[2Co 11:13-15 NKJV] 13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.**
- This might sound a little terrifying! How are we supposed to trust? How do we know who is genuine and who is a fraud?

- Sadly, sometimes it's not easy or obvious, but Paul tells us that their end will be according to their works. Ultimately, their actions behind the scenes can't be hidden. When the church money starts disappearing, the people in the wake of the leader are left damaged and hung out to dry; you start consistently hearing things from the pulpit that seem to benefit the leader but seem to contradict the word... These are all warning signs.

THEIR MOUTHS MUST BE STOPPED

Paul is so evident here. He doesn't say, "Well, just mind your own business and don't stir the pot."

- It is the pastor's job to stop the poison coming from deceivers' mouths by utilizing the Word and sound doctrine to expose the deception.
- Households are being subverted. Divisions are being planted. Confusion is running rampant. And it's all sourced from these people who are running their mouths with error.
- Paul says here, "especially those of the circumcision." These were Jews who dressed themselves in the language of Christianity, but brought forth a doctrine that sought to place people in bondage, denying the grace of God. They taught it was "faith in Jesus + the works of the law = salvation and right standing with God." this is what we often call "legalism" -- adding conditions to salvation by grace alone through faith alone.
- But this wasn't the ONLY false doctrine running around. Legalism still exists today, especially among Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Catholics. However, many other subversive doctrines have infiltrated the church in modern times. Doctrines which diminish the substitutionary atonement of Christ as one who bore God's wrath for our sin, minimize the consequences of eternal punishment for sin, and undermine the inerrancy, inspiration, and sufficiency of the written Word.

QUOTE

9:36



with a motive for money will prey on the flock of God.

BIBLE PASSAGE**Titus 1:12-14 (NKJV - New King James Version)**

¹² One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

¹³ This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith,

¹⁴ not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.

APPLICATION

Paul knows his Greek Philosophers and recognizes that for all they get wrong, one of them got something right.

- Scholars believe this quote is from the Greek scholar Epimenides, who wrote this 600 years earlier. Apparently, the Cretan culture didn't change much in 600 years because his words still held true. Those on the island of Crete were liars, evil and carnal, lazy and gluttonous.
- Paul recognized that the cultural weaknesses of the people seeped into the church and was contributing to the appeal of false doctrine.

The solution? A sharp and forward rebuke of the sinful patterns and carnal lifestyle choices.

- A "sharp rebuke" did not mean a lack of kindness, carrying a self-righteous attitude, or an arrogant tone.
 - The Greek word can mean "abruptly or immediately." In other words, "Titus, don't put off a rebuke because you don't want to deal with it."
 - It can also indicate the tone of a father who voices his authority to stop a destructive course of action: "Son..." you take your hand off that now..."

QUOTE

“When people have embraced cultural norms that are damaging their spiritual lives and leading them from the truth, bold, loving leadership is required to get their attention.

Regarding these deceivers and idle talkers, Paul closes this section by telling Titus what is at the root of their problem:

Pastor Josh

BIBLE PASSAGE**Titus 1:15-16 (NKJV - New King James Version)**

¹⁵ To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.

¹⁶ They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

APPLICATION

This verse sounds a bit confusing at first, but Paul's logic is as follows:

"The inward state of one's purity dictates their moral and religious actions."

- The person who has had their heart washed and purified by Christ will naturally gravitate toward all that is morally pure, and distance themselves from legalistic religion that relies on outward observance over inward purity.
- Conversely, the person who is defiled by the lusts of the world and its sensual pleasures will find a way to make everything impure; the wicked intent of their hearts

will defile their lifestyle and their religion. They externally confess God and portray religious actions or purity, but because their hearts desire wickedness, what's inside will surface and seep through the crevices of their appearance.

EXAMPLE: You could take an axe and place it in two people's hands. One person might use it to help someone chop firewood, and the other might use it as a weapon to harm someone. It depends on what's in their hearts. A person who the Spirit is purifying navigates around the pitfalls of unrighteousness and uses what they have in this world for the glory of God. The impure in heart will take the things of the world and even religion and defile it to their destruction.