

Choose Your Leaders

Wisely

Titus 1:5-9

*The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. **Titus 1:5***

*An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. **Titus 1:6***

*Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. **Titus 1:7***

Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is

self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. Titus 1:8

He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. Titus 1:9

Qualified leaders are crucial for the Church.

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. Titus 1:5

A Specific and a General Application

Specific application to the Church:

Choose your leaders carefully.

General application to us as individuals: **Choose your role models carefully.**

Choosing leaders and role models—carefully.

1. The Function of the Church Leader

Spiritually mature

He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. 1 Timothy 3:6

An Overseer is responsible for the direction and Spiritual Management of the Church.

Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Titus 1:7

Five New Testament Responsibilities of an Elder

1. Preaching

*The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. **1 Timothy 5:17***

2. Able to teach

*Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, **1 Timothy 3:2***

3. Shepherding and protecting the flock, applying Scripture to needs

*You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. **Acts 20:18***

4. Prayer

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.

James 5:14

Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved." Acts 15:1

5. Determines correct doctrine and guides the direction of the Church.

The apostles and elders met to consider this question.

No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

Acts 15:6, 11

God appoints, gifts, and decides our leaders

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

Ephesians 4:11-12

2. What an Elder or an Overseer is not.

Three things about an Elder's function that are contrary to popular thought.

Scriptural Qualifications for an Elder

Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task.

1 Timothy 3:1

Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled,

respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.

1 Timothy 3:2-3

He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) **1 Timothy 3:4-5**

He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

1 Timothy 3:6-7

Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, **1 Timothy 3:2**

1. The office of Overseer or Pastor is a male role and not a woman's

Three Things an Elder is not

It is a matter of being submissive to the authority of God's Word in this matter.

It's not a matter of who is superior.

*I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. **1 Timothy 2:12***

*appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. **Titus 1:5***

2. The leadership of the church is a “Christocracy” and not a democracy.

The Church is to be a “Christocracy” where the more

**spiritual leaders
seek to elevate the rest of us to
the standard of Jesus Christ.**

**The Church is not a democracy
where we sink to the level of the
average spiritual maturity.**

**3. There should be a plurality of
leaders and not just one pastor or
elder.**

*The elders who direct the affairs of
the church well are worthy of
double honor, especially those
whose work is preaching and
teaching. For the Scripture says,
...“The worker deserves his
wages.”* **1 Timothy 5:17-18**

**3. Qualifications for Leadership in
the Church**

**An Elder must relate well to his
own family**

An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Titus 1:6

If Christianity doesn't work at home, then he's not ready to lead in the church, regardless of how impressive he may be otherwise.

An Elder relates well to other people

Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Titus 1:7
Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. Titus 1:8

*He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. **Titus 1:9***

An Elder's personal life

*Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. **2 Timothy 4:2-3***

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden,

*for that would be of no advantage to you. **Hebrews 13:17***

*Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? **Acts 13:9-10***

Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun."

*Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. **Acts 13:11***

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the

shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

John 10:11-13