**Why The Church Needs Qualified Leaders**

**Reading - Titus 1:1-11**

***(Titus 1:5) For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you;***

**God commands & expects every church to have elders**

***(Acts 14:23) So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.*** Are we seeking to obey God or not?

**we need knowledgeable, mature & godly men.**

***(Hebrews 5:12-14) For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. {13} For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. {14} But solid food belongs to those who are mature, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.***

Why do you suppose one of the characteristics of an elder that he is **not a** **novice** [a babe in Christ]? I’ve seen some immature older men, haven’t you?

One of the things that separate an elder from the rest of the group is his **ability to teach**. He **holds *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.*** Why? ***{10} For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, {11} whose mouths must be stopped,***  ***(Titus 1:9-11)***

That’s why although a man is to **have a good report from without**, appointing a man to the eldership is not based upon a popularity contest. We need someone who cannot only recognize error, but who can use the scriptures to ***exhort and convince the gainsayers*. [KJV]**

Most of the characteristics that are found in an elder should be found in EVERY Christian. An elder should be **blameless**, but shouldn’t you be blameless too? An elder should be **orderly** and **of good behavior**, but that doesn’t give you an excuse not to be. He should **not** be social drinker, a drunkard or **given to wine**, but then again who of us should be? An elder should not be **greedy, covetous or a lover of money**, but neither should we.

Can an elder receive support for doing his work? Yes, ***(1 Timothy 5:17-18) 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."***

The matter of **hospitality** should be a top priority of every Christian. We all should be a **lover of good men** and one who is **given to hospitality** because that is how we grow in love and fellowship. You can learn volumes about folks by just having an informal chat with them over a cup of coffee.

***(Hebrews 13:1-2) Let brotherly love continue. {2} Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.***

***(Romans 12:9-13) Let love be without hypocrisy…{10} Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another… {13} distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.***

**The Flock needs Shepherds *(Isaiah 40:11) He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom…***

The Lords needs men who are willing [**desires**] to **take on the position of a bishop**. God’s work IS His people ***(Romans 14:15, 20) Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died… {20} Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food.*** Therefore His elders are in the people business.

When the Bible says he is **not self-willed**, it means that he is not one who must have his own way, but makes sacrifices for those in his care.

* Do you think that a shepherd always wants to be out in the rain rounding up strays?
* Do you think he finds it fun to get up early or stay out late to feed them?
* With that in mind who is doing the serving and who is being served? That’s why the Bible calls him the **steward of God**.

But most importantly, he must be **vigilant** and willing to protect the flock from wolves. We need men in the church who can recognize the wolves even when we can’t.

But let’s go back to the word **desire**. This word desire takes on the connotation of sacrifice just as Christ desired to be nailed to the cross. ***(Matthew 16:24) Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.***

***(Luke 12:48) For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.***

The church needs older men that the younger can go to when it comes to raising their children. They have already proved a certain degree of that success by the way they **ruled their own house well**. Their **kids aren’t riotous and unruly** but who respect his authority. They have led **children who are faithful** to the Lord.

**We need Good examples to follow.**

We need somebody who has already been there to show us the pitfalls. Give me somebody I can look up to. Give me a man who has a **good reputation from those in the community**. Give me a man who has **self-control** so I’ll know how to handle myself in a similar situation.

An elder can show us faithfulness to the Lord because he has shown us faithfulness to his wife. He has been the **husband of one wife** because he has been faithful to her for richer or poorer; in sickness & in health; till death separates them.

Another misunderstanding - The number of children.

1. The Greek word **Teknon** is found numerous times in the New Testament and is used in 1 Timothy 3:4 and Titus 1:6 From Strong’s Concordance & dictionary: ***5043. Teknon, tek'-non; from the base of G5088; a child (as produced):--child, daughter, son.***

2. If we are going to make this word plural in these two verses we must make it plural in every instance in which it appears to be consistent.

***(Luke 20:28-33) … if a man's brother dies, having a wife, and he dies without children, his brother should take his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. {29} "Now there were seven brothers. And the first took a wife, and died without children. {30} "And the second took her as wife, and he died childless. {31} "Then the third took her, and in like manner the seven also; and they left no children, and died. {32} "Last of all the woman died also.{33} "Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife does she become? For all seven had her as wife."*** [How many children does she need to keep from being childless?] (See also Colossians 3:20-21 and 1 Timothy 5:4)

***(1 Peter 5:5) Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."***