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What Does God Require of His Shepherds (II)

1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9

Introduction

1. As I have pointed out over the last three weeks, our elders have asked us to look out among ourselves and select godly men to set before them as additional elders.
2. These men will come alongside our present elders and help them in leading this church into the future.
3. Last week we began to look at the qualifications which God places upon such men and the reasons for those qualifications..
4. Most importantly, these men are to be above reproach (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6,7).
5. In their home lives, each man is . . .
 - a. The husband of one wife (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6).
 - b. One who manages his household well (1 Timothy 3:4-5; Titus 1:6).
6. In their personal lives, they are known as men who are . . .
 - a. Temperate (1 Timothy 3:2), Self-controlled (Titus 1:8).
 - b. Prudent (1 Timothy 3:2), Sensible (Titus 1:8).
 - c. Respectable (1 Timothy 3:2), One who loves what is good (Titus 1:8).
 - d. Hospitable (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8).
 - e. Not Addicted To Wine (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7).
 - f. Not Violent [“pugnacious,” NASB95; “a bully,” HCSB] (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7).

- g. Gentle (1 Timothy 3:3), Not Self-Willed (Titus 1:7).
- 5. This morning as we continue to look at the character traits that God looks for in these men, I will also see what God expects them to be able to do if they are to shepherd His sheep.
- 6. God also tells us to think about their wives, because a man's wife can be a help or a hindrance to him in serving as a shepherd of God's flock.
- 7. Our goal is for this congregation to be a beacon in this community until our Lord returns.
- 9. In order for this to happen we will need strong leaders who watch over our souls and continue to lead us toward our heavenly goal.

Slide 2**I. A Man Whom God Would Have Shepherd His Sheep Is . . .****A. PEACEABLE (1 TIMOTHY 3:3); NOT QUICK-TEMPERED (TITUS 1:7)**

- 1. "Not a brawler" (KJV); "not quarrelsome" (NKJV).
- 2. In Titus 3:2, Paul states that we are all to be "peaceable." Why?
- 3. Because God hates division and fighting among His people: "There are six things which the Lord hates . . . A false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers" (Proverbs 6:16-19).
- 4. In 2 Timothy 2:24-25a, Paul wrote, "And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition."

2a**B. FREE FROM THE LOVE OF MONEY (1 TIMOTHY 3:3), NOT FOND OF SORDID GAIN (TITUS 1:7)**

- 1. Another way to put this is to say, these men are not "in it for the money" (1 Peter 5:2; Titus 1:7).
- 2. This stipulation that a leader of God's people must not be greedy for money

is found in all the lists of those men who serve in the church, both elders (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:2) and deacons (1 Timothy 3:8).

3. The Pharisees of Jesus' day were "lovers of money" (Luke 16:14) who "devoured widows' houses" (Mark 12:40), (i.e., they exploited the generosity of people with limited means, especially widows).
4. When a person primary focus is upon his portfolio, he cannot be an effective servant of God (Matthew 6:24).

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth" (Matthew 6:24, NASB95)

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C. JUST (TITUS 1:8)

1. "Righteous" or "upright."
2. He lives his life in accordance with God's law.
3. His focus is upon righteous living.
4. The apostle John wrote "the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous" (1 John 3:7).
5. Such a man is a person of principle, one we can count on to make fair, just and righteous decisions for the church (Proverbs 29:7).

"The righteous is concerned for the rights of the poor, the wicked does not understand such concern." (Proverbs 29:7, NASB95)

3a

D. DEVOUT (TITUS 1:8)

1. To be devout is to be firmly committed to God and His Word.
2. We live in a world today in which the winds of culture are constantly changing.
3. If this congregation is to maintain its course in such a world, it must be led

by men who devoted first and foremost to God, and not to the whims of the culture.

4. The men we are considering to lead us are men who model godly commitment, character and conduct.
5. They lead God's people in righteousness and devotion to God.

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E. NOT A NEW CONVERT (1 TIMOTHY 3:6)

1. A new convert is a beginner in the faith, a baby Christian, a recent convert.
2. No matter how spiritual, zealous, knowledgeable, or talented a new convert may be, he is not spiritually mature.
3. In his letter to the brethren in Ephesus, Paul compared immature Christians to children who are "tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness of deceitful scheming (Ephesians 4:14, NASB95).
4. There is no substitute for the maturity which comes from time in God's Word and experience in life.
5. A new convert with the authority and respect which come from being an elder is vulnerable to the sin of pride.
6. Pride was the undoing of a once great king of Judah named Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26:16).

"But when he became strong, his heart was so proud that he acted corruptly, and he was unfaithful to the Lord his God . . ." (2 Chronicles 26:16, NASB95).

7. A prideful elder will inevitably fall (Proverbs 16:18; cf. 11:2; 18:1; 29:23).

"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling."
(Proverbs 16:18, NASB95)

7. Because of this, a new convert is simply not ready for the important task of shepherding God's flock.

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F. A MAN WITH A GOOD REPUTATION AMONG NONBELIEVERS (1 TIMOTHY 3:7)

1. As you and I recognized last week, it is vital that we as Christians have a good reputation before a watching, non-believing world (Philippians 2:15; 1 Peter 2:12).

“so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,” (Philippians 2:15, NASB95)

“Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.” (1 Peter 2:12, NASB95)

2. If we as Christians are required to have a good reputation before non-Christians, then it is even more important that our elders have such a reputation with unbelievers.
3. Our effectiveness in evangelism and in representing our God is tied to the moral reputation of our leaders.

4a**G. ABLE TO TEACH (1 TIMOTHY 3:2; TITUS 1:9)**

1. Our faith as Christians is built upon God’s Word.
2. As we noticed in our lesson, two weeks ago, a major part of shepherding the flock involves feeding it the Word of God.
3. It is because of this that Paul instructed Timothy that an elder must be “able to teach” in order to do their work.
4. The ability to teach requires that a person have or develop:
 - a. A knowledge of Scripture.
 - b. The readiness to teach.
 - c. The ability to communicate.
5. This doesn’t mean that an elder must be an eloquent speaker, or a dynamic lecturer, or a gifted teacher (there aren’t many of those).
6. But it does mean that he must know the Bible and be able to instruct

others from it.

7. In Paul's letter to Titus, he gives us a deeper insight into why this is necessary (Titus 1:9).

“holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.” (Titus 1:9, NASB95)

- a. He must be able to open his Bible and exhort and encourage others from it.
- b. He must also be able to recognize false doctrine and refute it with Scripture.

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II. His Wife Is A Woman Who Is . . .

“Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,” (Titus 2:3, NASB95)

A. REVERENT IN HER BEHAVIOR (TITUS 2:3)

1. She is a God fearing person.
2. Like her husband, she is devoted to God, and demonstrates it by the way she lives her life.
3. She adorns herself in “good works” which Paul said in 1 Timothy 2:10, “is proper for women making a claim to godliness.”

5a

B. NOT A MALICIOUS GOSSIP (TITUS 2:3)

1. The word, “malicious,” is from the Greek term *diabolos* from which we get devil or slanderer.
2. She is not a person who is known for saying things about others which are false or damaging.
3. What may start out as concern for others can quickly degenerate into such a sin.
4. Because the wives of potential elders may be privy to information that

others do not need to know, it is important that she is not one who will spread it.

5b

C. NOT ENSLAVED TO MUCH WINE (TITUS 2:3)

1. Paul wrote that those men who desire to be elders are not to be “addicted to wine” (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7).
 - a. “given to wine” (KJV, NKJV)
 - b. “not a drunkard” (ESV)
2. This was a problem for the church in Corinth, where, according to 1 Corinthians 11:21, some were already drunk when the church met together.
3. A woman who is “enslaved to much wine,” instead of being self-controlled, is instead controlled by wine.
4. If she were an elder’s wife, she would not be able to conduct herself in a way that is reverent.

5c

D. TEACHES WHAT IS GOOD (TITUS 2:3)

1. The wives of potential elders should be those who are “teaching what is good.”
2. Paul told Titus that such women “encourage (train) the young women to love their husbands, to love their children” (Titus 2:4).

Conclusion

1. In these passages which we have examined both today and over the last two weeks, we have seen what God desires in those men who shepherd His people.
2. Those of us who are Christians here today are “the household of God, the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15).

3. We have God-fearing shepherds keeping watch over our souls (Hebrews 13:17) who long for each of us to join them in our heavenly home at the last day.
4. Knowing who we are and the quality of men which God has placed over us, don't you want to belong to God's family?

Slide 6

We're part of the family
That's been born again
Part of the family
Whose love knows no end
For Jesus has saved us
And made us His own
Now we're part of the family
That's on its way home