

OFFICER TRAINING

LESSON 1

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A GODLY LEADER

The Biblical Qualifications

Introduction

A. High _____

Romans 1:1 “Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus **CALLED** to be an Apostle and set apart for the gospel of God.”

B. High _____

What is HOPED FOR in each member is EXPECTED of each leader.

Shepherding in Scripture was hard / dangerous work ... Acts 20:31

Jacob described his life as a shepherd: Genesis 31:40

Bad shepherds ... Ezekiel 34:2, 8

ONE MUST DESIRE THE WORK ...

1 Timothy 3:1

“Deacons, likewise ... “ (v.8) much of what is said of elders as far as qualifications are similar to those of deacon, though the work is different.

Literally “to stretch oneself out” --- NIV “Sets his heart on...”

“Leaders are ordinary people with extraordinary determination.”

“Godly Ambition” = not aspiring for prominence ... opportunity to serve.

BCO 8-2 He that fills this office (**Elder**) should possess a competency of human learning and be blameless in life, sound in the faith and apt to teach. He should exhibit a sobriety and holiness of life becoming the gospel. He should rule his own house well and have a good report of them that are outside the Church.

The Office of Deacon: Acts 6:3

BCO 9-3 To the office of Deacon, which is spiritual by nature, shall be chosen men of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly spirit, warm sympathies, and sound judgment.

I. A Leader's _____ life. I Timothy 3:1-13 ... *Yard stick & motivator*

A. A Godly life in the _____.

1. Above reproach Verses 2, 7

Respectable (KJV: good behavior) (no skeletons in the closet)

Like the Deacon quality ... "worthy of respect" (8)

Not perfect --- but not so burdened ... faults ... hurt one's reputation

Idea of the word = "_____"

. ' . Above justifiable criticism according to God's Word

Exemplary!! Character – integrity – not ability, worldly achievement

We lead by patterns more than by precepts!

"keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience" (v.9)

How do we maintain a pure conscience??

2. Self-controlled Verse 2

sophrana = literally ... "sound-minded" ...

Sensible - - "not swayed by sudden impulses over which he exercises no mastery." (Hendriksen)

Not flighty / unstable - - balanced in judgment – SANE

3. Not contentious Verse 3

Not a disputatious person / not trigger-happy in relationships.

Contention leads to a "Party spirit" ---->

I Cor. 1:12 "...I follow Paul ... I follow Apollos ... I Cephas..."

B. A Godly life in the _____.

1. Able to teach Verse 2

1st – must be teachable!!

Root meaning in Classical Greek points to this idea.

Also --- a hunger for truth / a man of conviction

Parallel passage ... **Titus 1:9**

The MANNER of his instruction: **II Timothy 2: 24-26**

Approachable, humble, patient ...

Leaders must be _____ –

E.g. **Ezra** ... Ezra 7:10

Not mean “*gift of preaching*” per se ...
but ability to give good, sound Biblical advice!

MENTOR --- DISCIPLE MAKER ...

2. Not a novice Verse 6

There is no shortcut to becoming a man of God ---

Time + means of Grace + suffering (humiliation) + prayer =

Can be damaging to the neophyte ...
“he may become conceited”
Literally “filled or enveloped with smoke”

3. Tested first Verse 10

Examined / scrutinized ... proven through experience ...
This process ... gives time to evaluate heart / gifts / calling.

II. A Leader’s _____ life. I Timothy 3:1-13

A. A Godly life in the _____.

1. Godly husband Verse 2

Literally, “**one-woman man**” –

Excludes promiscuous indulgence of any kind ...

Must be able to keep his word. Make a promise / keep it!

Women cannot be husbands ...

“Every adjective in the list --- masculine e.g. “OVERSEER”
(masculine noun)

In Ch.2:11-14 ... excludes women from superintending the church
(nature of the work excludes women)

The emphasis on domestic qualities ...

Church leadership = family / home leadership therefore, **FATHERS**

2. Godly father Verses 4, 5 (Titus 1:6)

Leaders cannot be one thing at home and another at church!

Paul uses an argument from lesser to greater ---

“If anyone does not know how to manage his own family,
how can he take care of God’s church?” (5)

. ‘ . The qualities that make one a good father in the home ...
make one a good “father” in the church.

The home is not chaotic --- children are not permitted to run
roughshod over family rules.

If they do --- the irresistible force of juvenile fallen-ness ...
meets the immovable object of parental discipline / consequences.

3. Hospitable Verse 2

Unique things happen in the relaxed setting of the home ---
ministry moves on conveyor belt of relationship.

The business of building “**intimacy zones**”!

B. A Godly life in important _____.

1. Alcohol, v. 3 Self Management

Lit. “not one who lingers beside his wine”

The Bible does not support total abstinence as a doctrine / absolute ...
As a personal scruple ... fine.

Immoderate use of anything.

Proverbs 23:29-35

Interesting - - Paul contrasts ... controlled with WINE to being
controlled with the *H.S.* (Eph.
5:18)

Leader must be preeminently controlled by the Holy Spirit.

2. Money Verse 3 “TITHER” / active participant in giving

Not obsessed with financial success / things ...

Not vulnerable to temptation ... put \$ ahead of people / principle

Not only free of DISHONESTY in financial affairs ----

Also free from acquisition as the chief goal ... even by honest means ...

I Tim. 6:9-10

The pursuit of things – eats up every other pursuit ...

3. Doctrine v. 9

Most of rest of course deals with this

III. A Leader's _____ heart.

I Peter 5:1-4

“To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ’s sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2) be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers - - not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; 3) not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4) And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. 5) Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” 6) Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.”

- A. _____ to serve Verse 2
- B. _____ to serve. Verse 2
- C. _____ to the flock. Verse 3
- D. _____ for Jesus Verse 4
- E. _____ before one another Verse 5
- F. _____ before the Lord Verse 6

The Calling of a Godly Leader
Deacons and Elders
THE NATURE OF THE WORK

Jesus' ministry was marked by _____ and _____ / _____ and _____
... E.G. **Matthew 9:35-10:8**

Elders engaged primarily in Word ministry ... Deacons primarily in Deeds ...

Both involve the impartation of _____ ...
conveyed either with counsel or with compassion ...

Therefore both are doing the same thing with different tools ...
. ' . Their efforts = optimized the more they work in tandem ...

_____ to shepherding ...

ACTS 6:1-7 ... The problem = a shepherding crisis ...

I. Ministry _____

Diaconate formed because of ministry failure
among the "elders" ... needs **NOT** met!

The solution is always some form of leadership development and deployment.

Pushing ministry toward the grass roots ...

Usual tendency = leaders redouble their efforts ... burn themselves out.

WERE THE APOSTLES SAYING: "We're too good to serve tables?!"

The Key:

The word "diakonia" used to refer to the ministry of tables (v.2) and the ministry of the Word (v.4)

The Issue ... the matter of _____ ...

Major problem in pastoral ministry today = preoccupied with wrong things ...

"Ecclesiastical CEO's instead of concentrating on ministry of
Word/counseling/preaching/teaching/training and equipping.

Sometimes it's the OMNIPOTENCE COMPLEX ...

Sometimes ... unbiblical concepts in the minds of the people ...
pastors / elders must be all things to all people.

Result ... generally - - poorer quality of preaching / teaching / pastoring

Someone said concerning the ministry of the word:

**“All speech that moves men was minted when
some man’s mind was poised and still.”**

Prayer = Key to effectiveness of the WORD ...

Paul Billheimer: “A church without an intelligent, well-organized, and systematic prayer program is simply operating a religious treadmill ... Any church program, no matter how impressive, if it is not supported by an adequate prayer program, is little more than an ecclesiastical treadmill. It is doing little or no damage to Satan’s kingdom ...

Does anyone imagine that souls are delivered from Satan’s bondage by means of human talent, the hypnotic power of human personality, the charm of human magnetism, eloquence, articulateness, or the magic of Madison Avenue techniques? All of these gifts God may use, but alone they are utterly powerless to deliver even one soul from the captivity of sin.”¹

Conclusion: The apostles did not let problems / pressures derail them from their priorities.

II. Leaders _____ (vv.3-4)

Shared Ministry (delegation) ...

Continually ask – What am I doing that someone else could do???

- A major factor in maintaining spiritual health in the midst of explosive growth = multiplication of qualified leaders ...
- Both qualitative and quantitative growth in the body of Christ --- a function of qualitative and quantitative growth in leadership & ministry involvement.

D.L. MOODY:

“It is better to put ten men to work than to do the work of ten men.”

The apostles’ willingness to share responsibility / authority ...

UNLEASHED A NEW SPURT OF GROWTH ...

NOTICE 2 GREAT PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT IN THE CHURCH:

¹ Paul Billheimer, *Destined for the Throne*, Fort Washington Pennsylvania: Christian Literature Crusade, 1975, pp. 101, 102, 104.

1. The people participate in the government
2. Their participation is mainly through divinely constituted officers.

1. Qualifications for Selection (v.3)

- a. **Male** - - word used here is not “men” in generic sense of “people” but for the male gender (“andros” rather than “anthropos”)
- b. Men of **reputation / integrity**
Gr. – “marturomenous” ... variant of word for “witness” ...

Reputation / integrity one of keys to being effective witness.
- c. **Spirituality** ... “full of the Holy Spirit” i.e. controlled / empowered ...

(A God-controlled man! v. 3, 5, 8 repetition of word “full”)
- d. **Wisdom** ... “Full of the spirit and wisdom” (v.3)
“Ability to apply Scriptural knowledge to practical situations”

The church needs leadership that thinks like God thinks!

Donald Guthrie says, “Even mundane duties must not be done by mundane men, but by spiritual men.”

All work in the Church is spiritual work.

J.O. Sanders, “Spiritual ends can be achieved only by spiritual men who employ spiritual methods.”

2. The Nature of the Work ... _____ ... practical service to _____

This explains Jesus’ emphasis on leadership in His Kingdom.

The gentiles “**exercise Lordship over them**” but the chief leader in the body of Christ is **the one who serves** the most.

Kenneth Gangel in his book Competent to Lead:

“New Testament leadership is not cultic control. One of the beautiful words describing the work of the church is “diakonos”. It means service and is precisely what Christ did for His disciples in that upper room ... Who is more important, the waiter or the dinner guest? Obvious answer: the dinner guest, of course!

But wait a minute. Who is the guest and who is the waiter at this Last Supper? Answer: 'I am among you as He that serves.'
Conclusion: New Testament leadership is not flashy public relations and platform personality, but humble service to the group.

The work of God is to be carried by spiritual power and not personal magnetism, as Paul clearly points out in I Corinthians 1:26-31. Some leaders may serve the Word and some leaders may serve tables, but all leaders serve!"

III. The Church _____ (vv. 5-7)

A. Installation - - laying on of hands (6)

O.T. sacrificial system ... worshipper laid his hands on the sacrifice by which he said, "This animal and I are identified. My sins are laid upon him & his blood is shed for me as though my own blood were shed."

The analogy of _____.

The apostles were saying, "These seven men whom you have chosen, who have the gifts and the qualifications we have outlined, are part of our ministry as apostles, and we are part of theirs. We belong in the body together, and in the body every gift is important."

B. Unification (v.5)

By choosing from the very group that was issuing the complaint (Greeks) ...
DISSENSION ENDED.

Imagine the bond of trust built by this act of humility!

Trust begets more trust ... give ministry away ... let people run with it!!

*** Humility is the seedbed in which unity flourishes ...**

**The leadership team is called to be a band
of brothers
more than a board of directors!**

C. Multiplication (v.7)

When church is sustained by the deployment of servant leaders ... it grows ...



