

“CHOOSE GODLY LEADERS”

(Titus 1:5-9)

Series: “I Love My Church” (Study of Titus)

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INTRODUCTION:

The book of Titus is God’s church growth manual. We love our church and want it to be a great church that honors God, so every member must know the characteristics of a great church as described in this book.

This week we consider the second characteristic of a successful church: *godly leaders*.

I. SCRIPTURE:

A. THE CHURCH IS TO BE LED BY “ELDERS”

5 The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

NT TERMS TO DESCRIBE THE OFFICE OF ELDER:

- Elder
- Bishop (or “overseer”)
- Pastor (or “shepherd”)

It is appropriate for one or more elders to be paid for their work

[1Ti 5:17-18 NIV] 17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. 18 For Scripture says, "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."

B. THE CHURCH SHOULD CHOOSE ELDERS WITH THESE TRAITS

1) LEADERSHIP ABILITY

6 An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.

Why care whether an elder can lead his family?

[1Ti 3:4-5 NIV] 4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. 5 (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

2) GODLY CHARACTER

7 Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—

not overbearing, (not pride prob)

not quick-tempered, (not an anger prob)

not given to drunkenness, (not an alcohol prob)

not violent, (not a control problem)

not pursuing dishonest gain. (not a greed problem)

8 Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.

3) BIBLICAL CONVICTION

9 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.

II. THE ELDERS AT NEW DAY

ELDER "FLOCKS" BY LAST NAME:

AL HOFFMAN: A - Co

GEORGE HOTCHKISS: Cp - G

CHUCK JERRY: H-K
BART MARX: L-N
WAYNE ROSE: O-Sc
TOM THRASHER: Sd-Z

III. APPLICATION:

A. SUPPORT THE AUTHORITY OF THE ELDERS

[Heb 13:17 NIV] 17 Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

B. HOLD THE ELDERS ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD'S WORD.

[Act 17:11 NIV] 11 Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

C. PURSUE THESE CHARACTERISTICS IN YOUR OWN LIFE

[1Ti 3:1 NIV] 1 ...Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task.

D. LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP YOUNG LEADERS

CONCLUSION:

Why does Jesus care about the qualities of elders? What does this have to do with the Gospel? Jesus is our _____ . He loves us! He died for us, then he left behind this organization called the church, "the body of Christ," to care for us and be his hands and feet. The elders are to be his representatives, caring for the flock. Will you join the body of Christ?