

TITUS: Godly Leadership for the Church

(Titus 1:1-16; 1 Peter 5:1-4)

Context of Titus: Titus sent to Crete to bring leadership order to local churches: [Office & Lay](#)

Main Point: In reflection of a holy, relational, and ordered God-head, the Lord has commanded that His Church be organized and led by Godly, spirit-filled men who act as lead servants to that body.

- Two main ideas in these verses:

- God called leaders within the local church that are lead servants to bless, disciple, & care/nurture
- God's calling to those leaders is to deal w/division, dissention, corruption, & heresy w/in church

READ Titus 1:1-16

Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, ^[a]for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, ²in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised ^[b]long ages ago, ³but at the proper time revealed His word in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior; ⁴To Titus, my true ^[c]son ^[d]in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

*Qualifications of Elders:

⁵For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains [in the church] and appoint **elders** in every city as I directed you, ⁶namely, if any man is beyond reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of indecent behavior or rebellion. ⁷For the **overseer** [*episcopos*/bishop] must be beyond reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not overindulging in wine, not ^[e]a bully, not greedy for money, ⁸but hospitable, loving what is good, self-controlled, righteous, holy, disciplined,⁹holding firmly the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to ^[f]exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict *it*.

*Leaders who confront problems within the church:

¹⁰For there are many rebellious people, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,¹¹who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not *teach* for the sake of ^[g]dishonest gain. ¹²One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." ¹³This testimony is true. For this reason reprimand them severely so that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth. ¹⁵To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. ¹⁶They profess to know God, but by *their* deeds they deny *Him*, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

God is a God of order; He has organized every living thing on the earth. Why would he want His Church to be any different? Within and *for* the **church**, [God chooses leaders of men to lead and serve men & their families, and their community with gospel and glory of God.](#)

Order in the church: Why are we an elder-led, congregationally affirmed church?

1. **Pastor**-led church (senior pastor has all the authority)
2. **Staff**-led church (Senior pastor and staff have all the authority)
3. **Deacon**-led church (Deacons have all the authority)
4. **Committee**-led church (where various committees lead all aspects of the church)
5. **Congregational**-led church (where the church body has all the authority of the ch.)

6. **Hierarchical**-led church (where a denomination has a governing board outside of that local church and has all the authority **A.** Anglican, Episcopal, Catholic model =diocese/parish: Bishops, archbishops, cardinals (curia) -led by Pope/Catholic Church
B. Methodist/Lutheran: Districts; Annual Conference; Council of Bishops, General Conf. Or Synods in Lutheran Churches led by area Bishops
C. Presbyterian/Reformed: Sessions, Presbyteries, Synods, & General Assembly

7. **Elder**-led Church (local elders within each church chosen from among congregation/vote)
******We at the WELL are an Elder-led Church**; = **Elder-Led, Congregationally Affirmed**
(The congregation both nominates, and votes to affirm elders.) **Ch. also votes on major issues.**

1-God commanded leaders to **oversee** the local church within a local city/community
2-Those leaders have a high calling and must be **qualified**/tested according to Scripture
3-Those leaders have a specific responsibility to the church: **Lead, Feed, Care for, Protect**
4-Those leaders are to identify, raise up, train, and **empower** other leaders/servants within the church to minister the "One-Anothers" to the church and community (Eph. 4:11-15)

22 Elder Qualifications: (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Tim. 1:1-7; *1Peter 5:1-5) =Elder/Pastor/Overseer
(1. **Men**; 2. **Called by God** (vs. 3); 3. **Appointed by other elders**; 4. **Meet 22 biblical requirements**):

- beyond reproach (2x) as God's steward,
- the husband of **one wife** (one-woman man); divorce may not exclude = dep. on circumstance
- having children who believe (children who are under control with all dignity)
- not accused of indecent behavior (not on the sex-offenders registry)
- not accused of rebellion (not a leader in a church split, divisive, causes dissension)
- not self-willed (=spirit-led, not a bulldozer, not bent on only having his way)
- not quick-tempered (patient, gracious, steady)
- not overindulging in wine (never gets drunk; knows when to say no; disciplined)
- not a bully (not combative, not contentious)
- not greedy for money (charitable, generous)
- not a new convert (shown spiritual growth, spiritual wisdom, been a long time disciple)
- IS hospitable (truly welcoming: open heart, open hands, open home)
- IS loving what is good (joy in his heart overflows from Lord's goodness & it shows in decisions)
- IS self-controlled (temperate)
- IS righteous and holy (truly loves the Lord; transformed life)
- IS disciplined (spiritual disciplines: In the Word; in prayer; witnessing; tithing; serving)
- IS gentle (gracious)
- IS respectable
- IS managing his household well (wife is well-loved and nurtured; not in debt; not in chaos)
- IS in good reputation among community (neighbors, workplace)
- IS skillful in teaching (apt/able to teach God's Word b/c knows & loves God's Word)
- IS holding firmly the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching (sound doctrine)

=In order to: **A. exhort** (encourage; demonstrate) in sound doctrine and
B. refute those who **contradict** sound doctrine.

C. = leading the church to become God's church in all ways scripturally

***Do you know someone like this?** Where are they serving/leading?

***Are you someone like this? Do you aspire to be? =Spiritually mature in your walk**

*These men described here **are** leading this church **now**: 7 elders. & Aspire to these qualifications

These Leaders are not only called to Lead, Feed, to Care for (nurture the flock), but ... these leaders are also called to protect the flock: = confront problems within the church:

¹⁰ For there are many rebellious people, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision [Jewish believers/those with Jewish background who are seekers],¹¹ who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not *teach* for the sake of dishonest gain [reputation, power, position, monetary gain?]. ¹² One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." ¹³ This testimony is true. For this reason reprimand them severely so that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴ not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth. ¹⁵ To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. ¹⁶ **They profess to know God, but by *their deeds they deny Him*, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.** (God is NOT looking for religious people; He wants to transform hearts/lives)

- Protecting the flock is a form of discipleship based in love: we protect those we love/imp. to us
- Protection is a physical ministry: We are called to defend the weak, to support the vulnerable from predators, the wicked, lies, those bring dissension, those who are divisive, & disunifiers
- Protection is also a spiritual ministry: Protect against **false doctrine, errant theology**
- Protection in the local church takes on the form of teaching, training, rebuking, correction, and church discipline as needed based on Matthew 18. Based in love & w/ goal of restoration!!

****Leadership is hard; It reflects God's Nature; It is a calling; It is Scriptural:**

*****READ 1 Peter 5:1-5**

APPLICATION:

1. What are you aspiring to? Do these biblical qualifications for eldership intimidate you or encourage you to press in to the Lord and be changed/transformed into His image?
2. Do you know your elders at the WELL? How can you get to know them better?
3. Are you praying weekly for your elders? Big task.
4. As God is calling you into leadership, are you ready to step out & lead within the WELL?
-If you are feeling the tug to lead, email matthew@thewellargyle.com

Community Group Discussion Questions:

1. What is your community group doing to foster biblical leadership within the group?
2. Is your group at a size where it needs to divide, for more healthy growth? Who in your group today do you think would be an able leader (or couple to lead) or host? To start a new group
3. Of the 22 biblical qualifications of eldership, which one are you weakest in? Strongest?
4. Ask the group to identify one of those qualifications they see as your greatest strength
5. Who do you see in your group or in the church who would qualify now for the office of deacon or elder? Would you think about telling them? Encouraging them? Would you seek their permission to tell the current elders?