

Leadership in the Church

Lesson 23

Memorize (Select One) –

- ✓ Acts 6:3 – Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.
- ✓ I Timothy 4:12 – Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

“According to Christ, the truest kind of leadership demands service, sacrifice and selflessness. A proud and self-promoting person is not a Godly leader by Christ’s standard, regardless of how much clout he or she might wield. Leaders who look to Christ as **their** leader and **their** supreme model of leadership will have servant’s hearts. They will exemplify sacrifice. True spiritual leadership is all about character, not syle.”

– J. MacArthur; The Book on Leadership.

- ◆ On a particular occasion our Lord’s men were discussing who among them was the greatest (see Luke 22:24). According to Matthew 20:25-28, what will characterize the disciple who wishes to follow Christ’s example of greatness?

- ◆ In the early church men were selected to serve the saints in the daily distribution of food. What were the three required qualifications of these men (Acts 6:3)?

I. Elders/Deacons

Read Titus 1:5-9.

- What are leaders called in verse 5? _____
(Those mature, solid and seasoned in the faith).
- What are leaders called in verse 7? _____
(Those who watch over, guard, protect the church).
- From verse 9, what two responsibilities must church leaders be prepared to do?
 - To exhort in _____ (teach truth).
 - To refute those who _____ (confront error).

In Acts 20:28-30 Paul warns the Overseers to be on guard for all the flock.

- In verse 29, how does Paul describe false teachers? _____
_____.
- According to verse 30, where will these false teachers come from?

- What is the goal of false teachers (verse 30)?

Read I Timothy 3:1-7.

- In your own words, state the kind of man a church leader must be.

In I Peter 5:1-3, Peter exhorts his fellow Elder's to shepherd God's flock.

- In verse 2 he tells them how to **not** lead?
 - Not _____
 - Not _____
- According to verse 3, what word expresses the right kind of Godly leadership? _____

II. Deacons

Read I Timothy 3:8-13.

- Deacons lead by serving the physical needs of the church. According to verse 10, what is a first requirement of a Deacon? _____.
- What is the reward of a faithful Deacon (verse 13)?

III. Pastors

Read Ephesians 4:11 & 12. In verse 12, Pastors and teachers are listed together because they are two terms governed by one article in the Greek NT. They refer to two characteristics of the same person, a Pastor (shepherd) whose primary role is to be a teacher.

- What are the results of a Pastor's faithful teaching of God's Word (verse 12)?

- What is the goal of the faithful teaching and equipping of the saints (verse 13)?

***An essential mark of a healthy church:
Expositional Preaching.***

“Expositional preaching is the kind of preaching that, quite simply, **exposes** God’s Word. It takes a particular passage of Scripture, explains that passage, and then applies the meaning of the passage to the life of the congregation. It’s the kind of preaching most geared to get at what God says to His people, as well as to those who are not His people. A commitment to expositional preaching is a commitment to hear God’s Word.”

– M. Dever; What is a Healthy Church

Twenty-Six Characteristics of a True Leader

- 1. A Leader is trustworthy.***
- 2. A Leader takes the initiative.***
- 3. A Leader uses good judgment.***
- 4. A Leader speaks with authority.***
- 5. A Leader strengthens others.***
- 6. A Leader is optimistic and enthusiastic.***
- 7. A Leader never compromises the absolutes.***
- 8. A Leader focuses on objectives, not obstacles.***
- 9. A Leader empowers by example.***
- 10. A Leader cultivates loyalty.***
- 11. A Leader has empathy for others.***
- 12. A Leader keeps a clear conscience.***
- 13. A Leader is definite and decisive.***
- 14. A Leader knows when to change his mind.***
- 15. A Leader does not abuse his authority.***
- 16. A Leader doesn't abdicate his role in the face of opposition.***
- 17. A Leader is sure of his calling.***
- 18. A Leader knows his own limitations.***
- 19. A Leader is resilient.***
- 20. A Leader is passionate.***
- 21. A Leader is courageous.***
- 22. A Leader is discerning.***
- 23. A Leader is disciplined.***
- 24. A Leader is energetic.***
- 25. A Leader knows how to delegate.***
- 26. A Leader is Christlike.***