

Application

We sincerely hope you have enjoyed the Church(ology) series. We pray that it was both a solid reminder and a challenge.

Why Leadership? It is God's answer to ever-present attacks and problems within His church. That's the way he designed it. Think of Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, Isaiah, etc. etc.

FOR LEADERS:

If you are a leader or desire to be a leader within God's church, this text is critical for you. You must seek God in each of these tasks and traits.

What about this text brings conviction?

What are TWO qualifications that you need to prayerfully develop and mature in your life, by God's grace?

FOR EVERYONE:

This text describes the kind of leader you need to follow in God's church.

What is your relationship to your local church leadership?

Are you a constant encourager, prayer warrior, support?

Do you grumble, criticize, harbor bitterness in your heart?

Some Practical Steps

It is vitally important to consistently BE WITH Jesus by spending time in His word. We encourage you to make it a goal to do this every day.

In order to facilitate this goal, we offer the following texts as an extended study of the sermon topic today. Pick one for each day this week and meditate on it, then record your thoughts and observations.

Hebrews 13

1 Timothy 3

1 Peter 5

Matthew 23

2 Corinthians 6

Church(ology)

March 13, 2011

Church(ology)
a biblical study of God's design for the body of Christ

Why Leaders?

Titus 1:1-11

For Further Study

The tiny book of Titus is one of my all time favorites. It has gorgeous language and images that you won't find anywhere else in the NT.

1:1-2—The original word order of verse 2 is like this, “...*in the hope of eternal life, which He promised, the God who cannot lie, from before time eternal.*” Now that is magnificent. God promises and cannot lie. Wow.

1:5—Paul left Titus on Crete because the church had problems: attacks from outside and immorality within. God's answer to the problem is leadership. He desires men of character to protect, teach, shepherd and lead.

1:6ff—Beginning here Paul lays out 17 qualifications for an elder leader. You will do well to notice that the qualifications speak to a person's character, not their gifts. This should lead the church to select/appoint elders of great character rather than simply men of great ability or giftedness.

Qualifications for Elders in the Church:

- *Above reproach*—Free from obvious points of attack, blameless
- *Husband of one wife*—At a minimum this means a faithful husband
- *Having children who believe...* - Kids are not disruptive/rebellious
- *Not self-willed*—Does not insist on having his own way, not stubborn
- *Not quick-tempered*—Has a long fuse and is not easily angered/excited
- *Not addicted to wine*—Has control of his behavior with alcohol/vices
- *Not pugnacious*—Not someone who picks fights or strikes blows
- *Not fond of sordid gain*—Free from the allure of money/fiscally honest
- *Hospitable*—Friend to the stranger, friendly, approachable
- *Loving what is good*—Takes great pleasure in what is true and good
- *Sensible*—Teachable and level-headed, sober-minded, self-controlled
- *Just*—Fights for what is right, fair, equitable, sense of justice/injustice
- *Devout*—Has a heart that is fully devoted to God, holy, believer
- *Self-Controlled*—A man that is not ruled by his passions, disciplined
- *Holding fast to faithful word...* - Non-compromising on God's Word
- *Able to exhort...* - Exhortation is positive encouragement/teaching
- *Able to refute...* - Refutation is negative correction/identifying errors

See a very similar list in **1 Timothy 3:1-13** for elders and deacons.

Beginning in **Acts 6** and throughout, we see the early NT church directed to set up a plurality of leaders: elders and deacons. Elders are charged with oversight and deacons are charged with service.

Church(ology)