

## Titus 1:1-9

### The Qualifications of Elders

#### V.1-4

Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, <sup>2</sup> in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, <sup>3</sup> but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior; <sup>4</sup> To Titus, a true son in our common faith:  
Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.

#### V.1a Author: Paul

A) Bondservant of God = willing servant

B) Apostle = a sent one

C) Of Jesus - A willing servant of Jesus sent out by Jesus

#### Interesting that Paul often connects his calling to both Jesus and God the father -

A) Part of the reason is it is a way of bringing forth the deity of Jesus - right in his introductions

“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of **God our Savior** and the **Lord Jesus Christ**, our hope.” 1 Timothy 1:1

“Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated to the gospel of God” Romans 1:1

#### V.1b Paul's purpose

I have been sent to proclaim faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives. NLT

#### V.2-3 His message

<sup>2</sup>This truth gives them confidence that they have eternal life, which God—who does not lie—promised them before the world began. <sup>3</sup>And now at just the right time he has revealed this message, **which we announce to everyone**. It is by the command of God our Savior that I have been entrusted with this work for him.

#### His Audience: Titus

<sup>4</sup> I am writing to Titus, my true son in the faith that we share.

May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior give you grace and peace.

A) Sons in the faith - people you have led to Christ - or disciplined or mentored in the faith.

B) We all need to have sons in the faith - starting with our own kids.

1) Disciple them first

C) I have been grieved through the years to see men who have been used mightily by the Lord - all over the world

1) Yet their kids are not following Jesus

D) That would break my heart! - Not worth it

#### Titus was one of Paul's sons in the faith - and his partner in ministry.

A) We noted last week in our intro - how Paul relied on Titus

#### The Mission entrusted to Titus:

<sup>5</sup> For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—<sup>6</sup> if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. <sup>7</sup> For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, <sup>8</sup> but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, <sup>9</sup> holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

#### To set in order the things that are lacking:

A) To set in order = to make straight, to align to make upright

B) The picture of what an orthodontist does in setting teeth straight

1) Or what an orthopedic surgeon does in setting broken bones

C) As long as there are broken people who are in sinners who are a part of the church - there will be things that need to be set in order.

1) In other words - this is a never ending task.

**But Paul here is speaking of the overall setting things in order or in place that need to be in place for the church to function as the body.**

A) It seems that this is something Paul had instructed Titus to do previously and he is exhorting him to follow through.

as I commanded you - the idea there is as I previously instructed you.

B) A healthy church - starts with healthy leadership.

C) Appoint Elders

**Let's talk about Elders:**

A) Elder, Bishop and Pastor are terms used – interchangeably in the N.T.- all referring to the same office

B) **ELDER – The man** – mature in the Lord – Not Elder in age – but not a Novice – Spiritual walk & experience / Been active in serving -

C) **BISHOP - The Ministry** – Simply means overseer

1) To look after needs / the needs / to watch for wolves / to make sure the body is being taken care of / Being around the Flock

D) **PASTOR - The Method** – Feed & to tend 1) John 21 – Jesus to Peter 3X– do you love me? Feed my sheep / Tend my lambs

**Elders care for the flock:**

A) By watching over them - protection from danger and false teaching - protection from predators - false teachers - agendas - our size

B) Elders watch out for the flock - health? Body healthy - are they staying focused on Jesus.

1) Talking with Elders - what are you sensing/hearing/ seeing? / **Courtyard after church**

C) One time “Tons of people are ..... How many have you talked to? - 2!!!

D) Anyone else having that same conversation? No!

**Elders watch out for the flock-**

A) Elders care for the flock - by seeking to minister to the needs of others

➤ **Practically - help facilitate - a move**

B) Care for the flock by disciplining - encouraging - counseling - building up the body

**C) Elders help care for the flock by helping people in the body - discover their gifts and their place in the body.**

**So an Elder is a guy who is seasoned**

A) He is someone who has been around the ministry – has some understanding of the sacrifice & commitment involved / as well as Warfare

B) When God is calling a man into the office of an Elder - I think there are 4 things that will point to that calling

**1<sup>ST</sup> THE MAN POINTS TO HIMSELF** – 1 Tim 3:1

***1<sup>ST</sup> This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work***

C) **Desire will be there** – Now in Paul and Peter's day – this was a little more difficult of a calling

1) **Pastors were first targeted in Persecution – they were the first ones killed**

D) So a person desiring the office of an Elder needs to count the cost - of the sacrifice of being involved.

**2<sup>ND</sup> THE SPIRIT POINTS TO THE MAN - Gal 5**

A) The fruit of the Spirit is going to be real evident in his life –

**B) Love people / Joy in serving – not a Burden / patient w/ people / kind to people / faithful & dependable /**

C) Not Perfect but exuding – the Characteristics of JESUS

**D) Not going to be a person who is a Jerk – impatient w/ people/ – He will NOT be someone people can't trust**

1) But on the Contrary – his very character & way of carrying himself will have a way of building confidence in others

**E)Observation: A lot of times guys who are called are guys who have been successful in other careers – shown faithful there**

1)Dependable, they have self-control – (Not failures everywhere else –

**I think I will become a pastor – One thing I can do is talk**

A)Not interested in that kind of person - We look for men who are proven to be faithful in their homes and workplace

B)I have actually had conversations with employers - tell me about this guy his character - work ethic -

C)And that is Just consider a guy for our Elder team

**D)So the man points to himself - Desire knowing the cost**

1)The Holy spirit points to the man - Fruit of the Holy spirit is evident

**3<sup>RD</sup> – THE SHEEP POINT TO THE MAN- Acts 6 explain – People picked the Deacons**

A)They were to acknowledge those men – who were **men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom,**

**B)Jn. 10 The sheep Know my voice & they follow**

1) Sheep know the voice of a shepherd – they Know the tone

**C) Shepherds feed the Sheep – not Beat the sheep**

1) I believe in the Church one way to know if someone is a real Shepherd is if He is continually pointing the sheep to the GOOD SHEPHERD

**D)The influence they are having on others is they are helping them get closer to Jesus**

**E)The body should never be surprised - that guy is an elder ? Really -**

1)I never see him around - never serving - or he is kind of mean -

**4<sup>th</sup> The Present Leadership will point to the man - Meaning they will recognize the calling that is on his life**

A)What **ORDINATION** is about - Recognizing the call

**B) Paul warned in 1 Timothy 3 about those who were – Novice – they weren't involved in ministry – NO EXPERIENCE**

1)Don't lay hands on someone too soon. PRIDE

**C)Biggest mistake I see guys make in Pastoring churches - they need help**

1)This guy breathing? Saved? - I will make him an elder

**The biggest mistake I see churches make is they give someone a title - or position hoping it will lead to faithfulness and fruit - WRONG**

A)You appoint people to positions because they have been faithful and are bearing fruit

B)YOU give them position and responsibility so that they can bear more fruit

C)So those are the ways a man gets into a position of leadership here at CV

**Biblical**

1)Points to himself - Desire - 1 Timothy 3:1

2)The Holy Spirit points to the man - Fruit and characteristics of Jesus - Galatians 5

**3)The Sheep point to the man - they know the heart and voice of a shepherd John 10**

4)The leadership points to the man - Proven and confirmed 1 Timothy 3:6

**Now for the rest of our time tonight we are going to look at the Qualifications that Paul describes here in Titus 1:5-9**

**A)Key word Blameless - V.6,7**

**B)Blameless = above reproach or not chargeable with some offense.**

1)It doesn't mean there cannot be an accusation -

**C) it simply means the accusation once investigated will not be found to be true. No Blame:**

**When blamelessness is properly understood as relating to one's community reputation both inside and outside the church**

A)1 Timothy 3:7 - <sup>7</sup>Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside

**B)The standards for Christian leadership strictly relate to one's example before others.**

1)Understanding that the requirements for elders relate primarily to how one lives before others

**C)He and his family are going to be in a fishbowl - (people watch) - Best buy - everywhere we go**

**D)I will be honest I used to be bothered by this- Burden to know that we were in a fishbowl**

1)Particularly hard on some of my kids who felt like they were being held to a higher standard unfairly

**E)Sunday school - or christian school - You are the pastors kid you should do better - know better - etc**

**Really felt this pressure - to be perfect.**

**A)Late to church one Sunday - cut a corner - a couple saw me - told me - left the church - I was so heart broken**

**B)Then I was kind of upset - Fishbowl - Read - the fishbowl is not meant to be a burden**

1)It is meant to be a privilege - that God has uniquely picked you and your family to be an example to the rest of the body.

**C)Changed my whole perspective - God put me here not me. -**

1)God's call - God's opportunity

**D)So when we are asking someone to PRAY about joining leadership and serving as an Elder - Pray is the key word.**

1)We want to know that God has spoken clearly to you and your wife that you are to be in this role.

**E)So first qualification is Blameless - Categories**

**Blameless in his relationships**

**A)Starting with his family:**

**B)The Husband of one wife:**

1) It is unlikely that Paul meant by these words Paul that all church leaders must be married, as has sometimes been argued.

**C)Paul was not married when he wrote this, and the best evidence is that Titus was not either.**

**So what is he referring to? Questions have arisen:**

**A)He is not referring to Polygamy - not in vogue at the time in the Roman Empire - Roman law - only one wife**

**B)What about someone whose spouse died or who was divorced?**

1)Divorced believer? Or while unbeliever? - Biblical reasons - or not

**C)If you have questions about that we can talk later - but I don't think those are the things on Paul's mind when he writes this**

1)If they were he would have gone into them in detail

**D)Paul's focus is on a husband's commitment to his wife -**

1)The literal statement of the apostle is that an elder must be "a one-woman man."

**So The literal phrasing seems less concerned with one's marital history**

**A)But is more focused on whether the man being considered for office is perceived as living in honesty, in faithfulness, and in devotion to his spouse.**

**B)That is the issue: Is he a faithful and devoted husband who is loving his wife well.**

**C)Is it manifested in her life that She loves Jesus and loves the church.**

**Blameless in relation to His children**

**having faithful (Believing in the faith) children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.**

**NLT who don't have a reputation for being wild or rebellious**

**The word children here is tekna refers to children in the home -who are at that formative age. (late teens - out of the house- not applicable)**

**A)As we break this down I think it will become even more clear.**

**B)Know this: Scripture is clear that parents are responsible for the proper nurture and upbringing of their children (see Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:20, 21).**

**C)The Bible makes it clear that A person is not ready for the responsibilities of others' spiritual welfare**

1)if he is not able to take responsibility for those in his own household

D)Paul puts it this way in 1 Timothy 3:4 **He must manage** his own family well.

**But note the word children here is plural - meaning we have to look at the all the kids.**

A)Meaning if a man has 4 kids and 3 of them love Jesus and are great kids and well behaved -

**B)but one of them is a prodigal - that one kid doesn't disqualify him**

1)He is judged by the family as a whole.

C)Now if all his kids are rebellious and want nothing to do with God -

1) I don't care how good of a Bible teacher or leader he is - he would be unqualified.

D)But if all his kids are great and following Jesus and following Jesus and one strays - that doesn't disqualify him

**Those of you who have raised kids to adulthood - know how challenging this can be.**

A)Amazes me - see a family - 3 great kids who really love Jesus and one who is rebellious and breaks their hearts

**B)Raised them all the same - in fact in many cases that rebellious child got even more time and attention**

1)Because the parents recognized it early - this bent toward the things of the world.

C)More attracted to the things of the world than the things of the Lord

1)Fact - each of our kids has to make their own choice to follow Jesus

D)Now one of the questions that was emailed in - was have we ever had to remove a Pastor or elder because his kids were out of order?

1)The answer is no - thankfully - but we have had Pastors and elders who have gone through tough things with one child.

**Blameless in his conduct V.7-8 - 5 negative /6 positive**

<sup>7</sup>For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given

to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, <sup>8</sup>but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled,

**Not self-willed = not pleasing himself**

A)Not in this for himself - his position fame - "Mommy where is the man who never lets us see Jesus." All about the Pastor

**B)NIV using the term not overbearing - Pastors who have been accused or abuse of authority-bullies**

1)Hearing a lot about this today - some exaggerated - some true

C)This is the mentality: You the people the staff exist to carry out MY VISION - help me fulfill MY CALLING

1)You exist for me - they drive people and push people

D)A true shepherd - leads and cares for people - Minister = **underrower**

E)Get the people to Jesus - Sheep dogs

1)**Only the Butchers in Israel drove the sheep**

**V.7 A steward** - idea God has placed something in your CARE

A)His precious bride he has purchased with his own blood.

B)My bride or my kids - my grandkids - my most precious possessions

1)Take care of my bride - my kids - my grandkids-trip

**C)How would you feel if you came home and found out - they were properly feeding - caring for - verbally abusive**

1)**I WOULD BE TICKED!!!!**

D)**THE CHURCH IS GOD'S BRIDE - KIDS**

1)Serious business

**Not quick-tempered**

A)**Anger is usually related to pride** and a man who thinks it is all about him will be easily frustrated and quick tempered

B)A quick-tempered man is always a spark away from blowing up.

C)Not given to Wine. - Given in the Greek is Paroinos = **Not sitting long with wine. -Not a regular part of his life.**

D)Carries the idea of always drinking - addicted to it

**You want an Elder to be under the influence of the Holy Spirit and not Wine or alcohol.**

A)The Bible doesn't condemn drinking it condemns drunkenness - Drunkenness is a sin

B)Rule of thumb: If you don't drink you are not going to get drunk - pretty simple

C)If you do drink - **it cannot become and addiction - in other words you might not ever get drunk - but you can't relax without a drink**

1)You can't go to sleep without a drink

D)That is addictive behavior - that is what the Passage is warning against

**Not Violent -**

A)Not an abuser of people - Physically, verbally, psychologically, or spiritually abusive.

B)Using your influence and position to manipulate others - lay guilt trips on others

**Not greedy for money: Not in it for money!**

The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: <sup>2</sup>Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; <sup>3</sup>nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; <sup>4</sup>and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

1 Peter 5:1-4

**6 Positive traits**

<sup>8</sup> but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled,

A)Hospitable: A people person - open up their home - enjoys spending time with People.

B)Ministry would be great if it wasn't for the people! - People are the ministry - tending, loving, caring, for God's people

1)Watching people make dumb decisions and being there to pick them up afterwards. {Not saying I told you so

**C)A lover of what is good- He is focused on the right things**

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things Philippians 4:8

D)Not just loving good but doing good - This trait describes one who is tireless in activities prompted by love.

**Sober minded - This describes the person who is able to think clearly and with clarity**

A)Wiersbe on sober minded: "This does not mean he has no sense of humor, or that he is always solemn and somber. Rather it suggests that he knows the value of things and does not cheapen the ministry or the Gospel message by foolish behavior."

B)Just, holy, self-controlled:

A pastor or leader in the church must be

- **just or fair (right toward men),**
- **holy (right towards God),**
- **self-controlled (right towards himself).**

C)Finally <sup>9</sup> holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught,

**Holding fast carries the idea of constantly holding onto and not letting Go of the word of God.**

A)But it also carries the idea of holding one's self against, the primary sense being to keep one's self directly opposite someone or something.

B)Three musketeers - Connected - back to back

C)Faithful word refers to the essential truths of the Christian faith—

1)the fundamentals which must not be compromised.

**There are certain nonessential things that we don't necessarily have to be in agreement on.**

**A)But the essential doctrines of Deity of Christ - Salvation - Inerrancy of the word - You have to have that down.**

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16,17

#### **Profitable for**

- **Doctrine: What is right**
- **Reproof: What is not right**
- **Correction: How to get right**
- **Instruction: How to stay right**

#### **So the elder needs to hold fast to the word:**

**Doctrine** - that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

#### **The power is in the word - The Bible says.....not my opinion - my thoughts - the Bible**

**A)Stop there and come back - next week - this leads into our discussion on dealing with false teachers**