



# Helping Servant Leaders

1 Timothy 3:1-16

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# 1 Timothy 3:1-7, continued

<sup>5</sup> (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) <sup>6</sup> He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup> He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

# The Crisis of Church Leadership

- Ken Blanchard wrote: “True success in servant leadership depends on how clearly values are defined, ordered and lived by the leader.”
- Angry? Ego trip? Proud? Immature?
- Lazy? Uncommitted? Uninvolved?
- Petty? Fearful? Weak?
- Unlearned? Unwise? Untrained?
- Willingness to lead, but an unwillingness to follow.

# The Desire of a Noble Task

## There will never come a time...

- When the local church will not need qualified spiritual leaders.
- When unqualified leaders will not be an issue for the church to deal with.
- When God's idea of leadership is unimportant to know

There is a great need in Christianity today for godly people willing to live and to serve under the Lordship of Christ.



# The ideal, Spirit-filled Christian leader

- Character
- Consistency
- Commitment
- Knowledge
- Spirituality
- Relationships
- Reliability
- Sensitivity, humility
- Courage

# What do we learn from this passage?

- The necessity of spiritual leaders
- The character of spiritual leaders
- The method of the Holy Spirit

# 1. The Necessity of Spiritual Leaders in the Church

- “Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task” (1 Tim. 3:1).
- “Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus” (1 Tim. 3:13)

# A worthy endeavor, a noble task, a good ambition

- This addresses the inner motivation to a worthy cause, the worthiest of causes
- This implies that a person would also seek to prepare himself and become the best he possibly could become in the area of Christian service
- This does not imply that someone would use manipulative ways to achieve a prominent position in Christian ministry.

# The vocational minister

- Ephesians 4:7-11 describes four historic “called” positions in the church: apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher
- Other words for pastor-teacher in the New Testament are: elder, overseer (bishop), and minister (servant)
- Deacons (servants) serve out of the general call that all Christians receive to serve. The priesthood of all believers means that all are called and enabled to serve.

# The heart of a spiritual servant

“Do you love me? Feed my sheep.”



- Loves his Lord
- Has the character of his Lord
- Serves for the benefit of his Lord
- Loves what his Lord loves
- Does what his Lord desires

## Jesus said

*“You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:42-45).*

# Spiritual Leadership

- Leads by example and not coercion
- Authority, Calling: leads for the sake of the glory of God, not for self
- Comes to serve, not be served
- Leads people for their own good, their own spiritual benefit, equips others
- Inspires confidence in God and a healthy sense of empowerment, not a weak dependent feeling on the leader

# C.W. Brister

“Effective pastoral administration liberates the talents and strength of others through consultative direction, democratic deliberations, and group decisions and action.”

Pastoral leadership is “Leadership that liberates life.”

# John MacArthur

“Being ...a shepherd requires getting right in among the flock and leading by example. It is not leadership from on high so much as leadership from within. An effective shepherd does not herd his sheep from the rear but leads them from the front. They see him before them and imitate his actions. The most important asset of spiritual leadership is the power of an exemplary life.”

# Peter Drucker

“Leadership is not magnetic personality. That can just as well be a glib tongue. It is not making friends and influencing people; that is flattery. Leadership is lifting a person's vision to higher sights, the raising of a person's performance to higher standards, the building of a personality beyond its normal limitations.”

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## 2. Servant Leaders Should Meet the Biblical Qualifications

- Good Outward Reputation
- Strong Inward Faith
- Mature Christian Character
- Committed Church Involvement
- Healthy Home Life
- Filled with the Spirit and with wisdom

# 1 Timothy 3:1-7

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# Attitudes leaders should not have

- **Pride** and selfish ambition, James 3:16-17
- **Insecurity**, Jeremiah 1:17
- **Anger, argumentative**, 2 Timothy 2:24-25:  
“The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, <sup>25</sup> with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth...”

### 3. Leaders Serve Under the Lordship of Christ, 3:13-16

- Christ is the Chief Shepherd of the church
- The Holy Spirit is the Administrator of the church
- The Bible is the inspired teaching guide for the church
- Leaders must learn to let Christ serve through them, empowered by His Spirit, obedient to His will

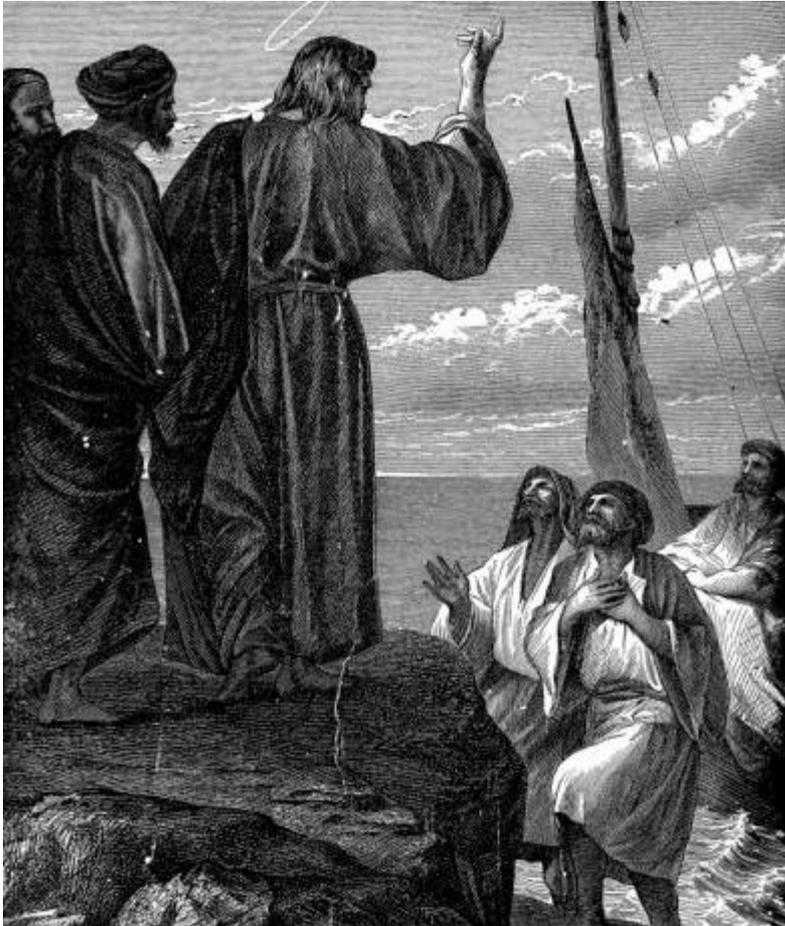
# “The Mystery of Godliness”

## A Spirit-filled leader should

- Trust the Lord – seek to follow Him
- Trust His Word – seek to know the Bible
- Trust the people of God – seek to know the mind of Christ as revealed in the church family
- Trust the working of God in his heart – seek to listen to what the Spirit of God places upon his conscience

# Robert K. Greenleaf

“A leader ventures to say: ‘I will go; come with me!’ A leader initiates, provides the ideas and the structure, and takes the risk of failure along with the chance of success. A leader says: ‘I will go; follow me!’ while knowing that the path is uncertain, even dangerous.”



# Following Christ

- Jesus said, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”
- Unless we are following Christ daily, communing with Him, we will not be able to catch people for Him.

# Spiritual Leadership does lead

- “The elders who rule well” (1 Tim. 5:17)
- “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood” (Acts 20:28)
- “I exhort the elders among you...shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight” (1 Peter 5:1-2)

## Professor Albert Barnes wrote:

It is a work whose only tendency, when rightly performed, is to do good. It injures no man, but contributes to the happiness of all. It promotes intelligence, industry, order, neatness, economy, temperance, chastity, charity, and kindness in this world, and leads to eternal blessedness in the world to come. A man who sincerely devotes himself to such a work has a claim on the kind regards of his fellow-men.

## Titus 1:6-9

For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you ... the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,  
<sup>8</sup> but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,  
<sup>9</sup> holding fast the faithful word