

Church Life: The Church and Her Leaders

Primary Truth Taught- Pastor's are to be men called and equipped by God to serve His church by building up the body to maturity.

Introduction

Woodrow Wilson, after his presidency, was asked what the greatest honor had been in his life. You know what his response was? To be an elder in the Presbyterian church. That was his response. He'd been President of the United States, the most powerful person in the world. To be an elder in the Presbyterian church, he considered it to be the greatest honor and privilege of his life.

1 Timothy 3:1-7 (KJV)

1 Timothy 3:1-7 (Amplified Bible)

1. Pastors Must _____ Service Not _____.

1 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.

Acts 14:23 (ESV)

²³ And when they had appointed pastors for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Acts 20:28 (ESV)

²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

2. Pastors Must Be Above _____.

- *Therefore an overseer must be above _____.*

- *the husband of one wife...*
- _____ - _____ Literally means free from excessive rashness. We might say not a hot-head or not one who flies off the handle.
- _____ - _____ – here he is self-controlled and not controlled by others or by sin.
- *respectable,-* Those he is serving have respect for him. This will greatly add to his credibility.
- _____ - He shows others hospitality. Opens his home to others and/or cares for other's needs.
- *able to teach,-* He can teach others. Has as one of his gifts teaching. This does not mean preaching in front of the church because not all pastors have that ability but it does include teaching on an individual basis.
- *not a drunkard,* an elder cannot be prone to drunkenness. This is part of being self-controlled.
- *not violent but gentle, not _____,* most scholars put these two together. The false teachers were guilty of stirring up strife and confusion and entering into quarrels. Not so for the overseer called by God to serve the church.
- *not a _____ of money.* This too was a vice of the false teachers in Ephesus who loved money and popularity. Their teaching was to gain notoriety for themselves and along with that wealth. Again, **the overseer must not be prone to love money because this might cause him to teach something other than God's Word.**
- *He must _____ his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵ for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?*
- *He must not be a recent convert (novice), or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil.*
- *Moreover, he must be well thought of by _____, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.*

3. Pastors Must _____ and _____ the Church.

Ephesians 4:11–15 (KJV)

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

(Equip the Saints for what?)

- *for the work of _____*
- *for building up the body of Christ,*

Conclusion:

**"The church is not a campus but a community. Pastors are not CEOs; they are shepherds."
~ Dillon Burroughs**

"The first and principal duty of a pastor is to feed the flock by diligent preaching of the word" ~ John Owen

"The goal of the pastor is not to get people to show up but to get people to grow up." - John Maxwell

"The pastor who cares about the spiritual growth of his people must make God and His Word the centerpiece of his ministry." - Steven J. Lawson

"Pastors must practice a two-fold program of cultural engagement: deconstruction and demystification of cultural idols, and reconstruction and re-enchantment of a gospel-shaped worldview." - Timothy Keller