



FAITHFUL CHURCH LEADERSHIP.

“THIS IS WHY I LEFT YOU IN CRETE,
SO THAT YOU MIGHT PUT WHAT REMAINED INTO ORDER,
AND APPOINT ELDERS IN EVERY TOWN AS I DIRECTED YOU...”

TITUS 1:5

GOD’S DESIRE FOR THE CHURCH :

- That God’s people and church would be distinct from the world around it...
 1. By their faithfulness to God.
 2. By their purity of conduct.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Instructions to get what you want done (strategy)

1. Do you follow instructions to ensure something is built properly? My TV.
2. Instructions for leading a healthy or pure church
 - God likes to do things in order.

BIG IDEA:

God desires that his Church will be led by faithful elders,
so we will submit to, encourage, and aspire to become these types of people.

GOD’S IDEAL ORDER FOR FAITHFULNESS:

- Appoint elders.
 - Overseers.
 - Care for the flock as a father cares for his family.
 - God’s stewards.
 - Entrusted with God’s work.
 - Responsible for the master’s house.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Poor leadership

1. Dan Jennings – Manager of the Marlins lost respect of the team because he wasn’t a good model of a baseball player.
2. ???
3. Aspire to be an elder.
 - Elders should care for the church with gladness, not half-hearted. Do you love Christ’s church?

1 Timothy 3:1 – “If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.”

ELDERS FAITHFULLY MODEL CHRIST:

- In their private/family life.
 - Husbands of one wife – a one woman man... not a flirt and not a cheater.
 - Doesn’t limit people who have never been married.
 - Children are believers, not wild and disobedient – the man runs a Christian household and is able to manage his children.
- In their personal/public life.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not arrogant – disregards others to get his way ○ Not quick-tempered – short-fused in his anger ○ Not a drunkard – addicted to alcohol ○ Not violent – not physically or verbally violent ○ Not greedy – doesn’t use his office for profit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hospitable – lover of strangers ○ Lover of good – ally of good men, deeds, and things ○ Self-controlled – able to act rationally at all times ○ Upright – committed to doing what is right ○ Holy – committed to live devoted and service to God ○ Disciplined – self-mastery
--	--
- In their teaching.

- Holds firm to the trustworthy word as taught – exclusively loyal to the Apostles’ teaching

“And so what Paul is saying to Titus is, “Look, you hold fast the reliable, trustworthy, dependable, sufficient Word of God, which will be in perfect agreement with what you’ve learned from the apostles. It hasn’t changed; you don’t need a new message. It doesn’t need to be redacted, edited or updated. You must whole-heartedly cling to the revealed truth of God... the recognized body of Christian truth.” We are not innovators; we are not creators; we do not come up with new things. I shudder every time I hear some guy on television say, ‘I have come with a new teaching.’... We aren’t here to give you a new teaching; we are here to give you an old teaching from the Word of God.

‘Hold fast’ then not only has the sense of loyalty but it has the sense of exclusivity - we are loyal to it and exclusive in terms to our devotion. We are men of the Word, and that is the necessary foundation...” - **John MacArthur**

- Gives instruction in sound doctrine – teaching what is correct (as the Bible defines) and healthful

“This elder is zealous for the truth. He doesn’t simply assent to the truth, his heart is wrapped up in the truth. He holds fast to the faithful word of biblical teaching, and he teaches in accordance with that word. He’s able to exhort in sound doctrine. He has an ability to incline faithful Christians to belief and obedience...” - **J. Ligon Duncan**

- Rebuke those who contradict it – the goal of refutation is not to destroy the opponent, but to restore him to sound doctrine

HOW TO OBEY THIS TEXT:

1. Join a local church with faithful elders, who model faithful leadership.
2. Aspire to be this type of faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.
3. Devote yourself to faithfulness to God by loving sound doctrine.
4. Devote yourself to faithfulness to God in your relationships and family life.
5. Devote yourself to faithfulness to God in your personal life.