

SUNDAY SERMON QUOTES OCTOBER 21, 2018

Every church has leaders. The question is, “Do we have the right kind of leaders?”

At Community Bible, we use the term “pastor” to designate those in full-time vocational ministry. Not all pastors are on the Elder Council. It’s fine to make this designation for organizational clarity, but the Bible does not make any distinction in terms of function between an elder and a pastor.

Deacons are practical servants, indispensable key players who serve the body of Christ and multiply the church’s ministry.

What will happen at Community Bible if our church imitates its leadership? If you are currently serving as an elder or deacon, or have served in this role in the past, ask yourself that question. Or if you are a ministry leader, the same question. To press it home, if you are a mom or dad or grandparent or guardian, ask what will happen in your home spiritually if your children imitate your leadership?

Elders are pacesetters (Thune), not mere figureheads. They are leaders and disciple makers. They teach (1 Tim 3:2), rebuke (Titus 1:9), rule (1 Tim 5:17), guard doctrine (Titus 1:9), evangelize (Titus 1:8), deal with difficult people (Titus 1:10-14), and raise up new leaders (2 Tim 2:2).

First Timothy 3 makes it clear that a person’s ability to lead is not the primary prerequisite for biblical leadership. When setting leaders apart, we aren’t first looking for people who are successful in their vocation. We also don’t want to consider people who are casual about God and holiness and mission. In truth, this applies to all leaders at every level, not just elder and deacons. But it is especially important for elders and deacons to be people whose lives and character are worthy of being imitated and reproduced in every Christian.

We sometimes think aspiration is inherently negative. But godly ambition can be a notable force for the glory of God. Some people aspire for comfort, ease, and anonymity in the church. Almost anything except leadership responsibility. I hope that doesn’t describe you. That’s Paul’s point. It’s a gift to the church when people desire to provide godly leadership to God’s people, not because you want power, but because you love God’s people, God’s church and God’s mission.

Leadership development must be a priority if any team or organization hopes to win (i.e., accomplish its mission).

“A church without godly leaders is an endangered church, and a church that does not train leaders is an unfaithful church.” – Thabiti Anyabwile

1. Are you actively seeking the Christlike character necessary to lead at Community Bible? (maybe you are current leader discovering you aren’t qualified to lead)
2. Are you regularly praying for your current leaders?
3. Are you actively identifying future leaders?
4. Is God prompting you to pursue a leadership role in the church?

