WHITE FIELDS
CALVARY CHURCH

Oct 11 2026
Title: Spiritual Leadership Pt 1
Topic: ministry, calling, Gospel

1Tim3:1-7 - 15 qualifications of elders

1) what's a bishop? Picture? Funny hat, robe? Nerdy voice, "dearly beloved…"

"Bishop" *episkopoi* = overseer.

"faithful saying" Paul says this 5x (1,2Tim, Titus) = remember this! Repeat it.

"desires…" It's a good desire. The harvest is huge, laborers are few.

Acts20:28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to 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." *His church, He chooses the overseers*

• It's not about titles, platforms, building a brand - they aren't leaders bc they are

charismatic, good on stage, good looking, have a seminary cert - a true

shepherd doesn't choose it, God chooses him - we just recognize His calling

What's that look like? How did you know you were called?

• I did not desire it! Min = Wear a funny robe?! Sit/stand/sit - biggest nerd in the

room, and I didn't want that! What happened?

#1 repentance, the love of God & filled w/ the Holy Spirit; transformed

#2 I wanted others to experience it; started saying yes to serving diff ways (youth,

worship?); Terrible speaker…I had a burden to share His Word!!

Spurgeon: “The first sign of a heavenly calling is an intense, all absorbing desire

for the work”

• RMCC - a spiritual home, discipled by good pastors, my fav pass time, shooting

a ball vs listening to sermons, assist to the janitor, 2yrs on staff, learning…sent

• Insecurity is like cancer to the ministry; true servanthood helps set you free

Mk9:35 “If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.”

What’s ministry like? 2Cor12:15 “And I will very gladly spend and be spent for

your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.”

• Titus1:5 “appoint elders” I find nothing about these men being voted into office!

• Acts20 - Paul meets w/ the *elders, presbyteros,* of the church in Eph(17). He

calls these men *overseers, episkopos,* and instructs them to *shepherd,*

poimaino, or pastor the church (v28).

• Pastor, elder and bishop describe slightly different aspects of the same calling.

• Elders aren’t power hungry, business men & decision makers; pastoral, they

care for spiritual needs, seek God’s direction and give their lives for the sheep.

“The Measure of a Man” by Gene Getz; lol… 5’10 3/4”, 180? 6’4” 240?

The 15 qualifications below are marks of spiritual maturity; they are for all of us!

His Character - “blameless” = “nothing to take hold of” not perfect, no hypocrisy;

I’ve known pastors, “soul winners”, dynamic, charismatic, deceitful & abusive

“husband of one wife” = 1 woman man - not speaking of his past, but of his

present condition - sexual purity (all new believers, had a past, Gk culture!)

Domosthenes: “Mistresses we keep for the sake of pleasure, concubines for the

daily care of our persons, but wives to bear us legitimate children”[1]

• 1 man for 1 woman was a foreign idea (today? Digital mistresses/ images)

• Whole hearted devotion to his bride - bc this is a reflection of Jesus (Eph5)!

How do you lead a church? How do you reach the next gen, and the world? They

need to see how real the Gospel - how it can change a life!

“temperate” clear headed, not ruled by emotions or chasing every new thing (Bo)

“sober-minded” serious about the right things, uncompromising; doesn’t mean no

sense of humor! Laughter is important in the ministry…you’ll cry…or drink!

“good behavior” modesty (ie. women’s clothing); a life is ordered bc dev to Jesus

“hospitable” love strangers, Rom12:13 “practice hospitality” pursue it!

Pastors can’t love the sheep if they avoid the sheep! Some exit the stage into a

Batcave, special parking. “Love runs down hill” every week, strangers visit, love

them! “People aren’t very friendly”…Walking thru…no one! I know why they

aren’t. You scare them! PG: it’s hard to hug a porcupine! Are you a Christian?!

“able to teach” the Word, disciples others - shepherds feed w/ the Word! Not all

from the pulpit…BLG’s, 1on1, discipleship. It’s encouraging (ie. last week)!!

2Tim2:15 “Study to show yourself approved...rightly dividing the Word”

3) “not given to wine” = not with wine; a drink is not a sin; the Bible is full of

warnings; Prov31 tells rulers to stay away; Lev prohibits it from serving priests!

• drunkenness is a sin; Alcohol is extremely addictive - too many families torn

apart by alcohol, in the church too, and in pulpits

• 1/3 Americans are excessive drinkers ; 1/7 who drink end up alcoholics,

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• if just 7 people see me drink and follow my example, chances are 1 would fall

into a life of destruction; so as pastors, we abstain for the sake of others

“not violent” they don’t throw hands to solve problems (want to?)

“not greedy” not distracted from the calling by the desire for $$

“gentle” not a wimp, a gentleman; “sweet reasonableness”, listens, kind

“not quarrelsome” not ready to pounce…who wants a prickly Pastor?

“not covetous” always wanting more, more $$, more fame, bigger ministry

4-5) His Priority = “home” his family is the #1 ministry! Do they love & respect

dad? *Btw, this doesn’t put pressure on kids to be perfect…on us!*

- As long as those kids are under dads roof, do they love & respect dad? It doesn’t mean there won’t be problems, does he run? Bury himself in his work?

  Or face them head on by God’s grace?

- Or does he bury himself in work? Run…*how can he care for God’s family*?

Is he the same man in the pulpit & at home - do his kids: that’s my dad! That’s not

my dad! Church we have job to reach the next gen - the Gospel should be visible!

Btw, being a PK can be hard…thankful for a church that loves my kids well!

6) His Preparation - “a novice” = new believer, immaturity. We want to give

opportunity, but not heavy resp. We don’t want to set them up to “fall”!

- Isa14 - his fall, “I want to be God” I wanna be in charge, why do I have to serve?

P Quinn: tough love, mad, let me teach? We can become angry or humble…

2Chron16:9 “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth,

to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you

have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars.” *Who?*

There's a needed time of preparation and humility.

7) Does he have a good testimony? Still dragging the old life? Bigger picture!

2Sam12:14 "…by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the

LORD to blaspheme" *Bigger pic…Jesus desires all would be saved!*

Testimony: Girl in class, I'm a Christian; oh, I never thought you were!

The devil lays snares to trip up the spread of the Gospel w/ a scandal, or a

believer who is greedy, lies, to the amusement of a skeptical watching world.

• Peter was competitive. James & John were too - they wanted to be at the right/

left hand of Jesus. John had to mention he outran Peter to the empty tomb.

They argued about who was greatest - struggled w/ feelings of jealousy, wanting

honor, standing out, being special. There's a lot of wrong motives…

• Peter: "Lord if all these guys stumble, I never will!" Then he failed bigger!

• Peter do you love Me? Feed My Sheep. 3x, why? Peter's motive had not

always been love for Jesus! He had a problem w/ pride, self-love.

• He wasn't disqualified, but he needed to be humbled & experience grace before

he was ready to be empowered by the Spirit to lead!

Thankful for…God can use my failure to humble me, show me His grace, and

make me ready for a greater work of the Spirit to use my life!

Big Idea: 15 qualifications of elders, Spiritual Leadership

- Calling (1)
- Character (2-3)
- Priority (4-5)
- Preparation (6-7)