



Characteristics of a Leader in the Church

Lesson 1: Introduction & Above Reproach / Blameless. The Husband of One Wife, Temperate, Sober-Minded

1. Introduction

Here are some questions to ask yourself:

- How do you recognize a man or woman of God?
- How do you recognize a spiritually mature person?
- Do people consider you a man or woman of God?

2. When Paul looked for leaders in the early church, he looked for a certain kind of person.

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Titus 1:5-10

These are qualifications for leaders. However, they are also character traits that every Christian man should possess.

- Above reproach / Blameless
- Husband of one wife
- Temperate
- Sober-minded
- Respectable / Of good behavior
- Hospitable

- Able to teach / Holding fast the faithful Word as he has been taught
- Not given to wine
- Not self-willed
- Not quick-tempered
- Not violent
- Not quarrelsome
- Gentle
- Free from the love of money / Not covetous
- One who manages his own household well
- A good reputation with those outside the church
- Love what is good
- Just / Holy
- Not a new convert
- Self-controlled

This list goes beyond generalizations and gives specific _____
of a man or woman of God.

This list describes Jesus.

None of these characteristics have to do with _____

19 have to do with a person's reputation, ethics, morality, temperament, habits, and spiritual maturity.

The other has to do with the ability of a person to lead his / her own family.

The character traits that we will study in this course are listed in scripture as the qualifications of an elder. We will not be covering the qualifications of a deacon. Some of those qualifications are the same and others are different.

3. These characteristics are the result of a process of becoming more and more like Jesus.

You are not born with these things. _____

Definition of PROCESS: Something consciously and deliberately done, as the result of a choice, directed to a given purpose; course; time during which something is done before it completed.

Becoming a man or a woman of God will not happen by accident. It is a process that will begin when you make the choice to let God work on you.

4. The first characteristic is not on the list.

1 Timothy 3:1

God does not choose people without passion to do mighty works for him.

The attitude of a person's heart is important.

That is why the Apostle Paul uses the word "desires".

Definition of DESIRE:

- _____
- It describes a person who wants something so badly that he stretches forward to obtain what he wants.

This is about the inward attitude and _____ to be the best that you can be for Jesus.

Have you ever met somebody that has loads of talent and gifts but no determination or desire?

God will not use a person like that. You are eliminated from leadership if you have a lack of desire.

The word "desire" also means a burning desire or a yearning ambition to achieve something.

This is not in the list of the characteristics of a leader. However, Paul uses this word before his list.

Why must a leader have this characteristic?

The reason for this is that we all will run into obstacles in life. However, if we have an inward desire to achieve our goal, any obstacle can be overcome.

Desire is the foundation. It is the fundamental thing we need to achieve success in life.

If your level of desire is strong, you will never give up!

Someone with this Biblical desire has a strong desire that refuses to quit and continually presses forward to reach new heights.

5. Above reproach / Blameless

Definition of ABOVE REPROACH:

- _____
- Having unquestionable integrity
- Irreproachable
- A good reputation. (Acts 6:3)

The conduct of a person of God must be an _____

This character trait is like a summary of all the others.

Timothy had this character trait.

Acts 16:1-3

- _____

A good reputation creates positive conversation.

- There was more than one person doing the talking.

All of us have one or two friends that will always say good things. But what are people in general saying?

- Timothy's reputation was good at home and abroad.

People were talking about him in both Lystera and Iconum.

- Paul wanted Timothy to go with him _____

Honestly ask yourself what evidence you have that you have a good reputation. The following questions will help:

- Do I get positive feedback from those closest to me that would indicate that I have a good reputation – from my wife, my children, and my friends?

- Do more and more people seek me out as a person to share their lives with? Do people trust me with confidential information?
- Do my relationships with people grow deeper and more significant the longer they know me and the closer they get to me?
- Does my circle of friends grow continually wider and larger? Is there an increasing number of people who admire and trust me?
- Do people recommended me for significant or difficult tasks without fear of my letting them down?

6. The husband of one wife

This quality has to do with _____

In the pagan culture of the day, the Apostle Paul had to deal with this.

This does not mean that a leader cannot be a woman. This also does not mean that a leader has to be married.

This is saying that if a leader is married, they should be faithful to the marriage covenant.

If a leader is single, they should be sexually pure.

However, as a leader you have a _____ in every area of life.

Matthew 5:27, 28

In the New Covenant, Jesus raised the standard of sexual purity.

God always looks at our heart.

The following are some practical things we can do to live holy in this area:

- _____

Everybody is tempted. However, we must not put ourselves into temptation by getting into conflicting situations.

For example, a leader should never counsel someone of the opposite sex alone.

Do not put yourself in a situation where things could look bad to other people, even if you did not intend it.

The following was written by Franklin Graham about his father, Billy Graham.

My father, Billy Graham, lived to be 100 years old without a scandal, because he followed the footsteps of his father in heaven with consistency . . . My father would not ride in an automobile with a woman other than my mother, and he wouldn't sit alone and have a meal with another woman.

My father kept to that principle not just to protect himself, but also to protect my mother and, more importantly, to protect the name of Almighty God. There were a lot of opportunities he could have had to be with a woman, and he just did not allow that to take place because he lived up to this principle. He knew that, if he made a mistake — if he failed — then it wasn't just Billy Graham who would be hurt, but it would hurt the name of the lord, Jesus Christ.

These standards that my father set were not just for himself, but for his team; he required that of his team members follow them as well. And, I'm not going to be alone in the same room or ride in the same car by myself with another woman that's not my wife, either.

And, it's not that my father didn't minister to women or talk to women: He talked to many women, but always in the presence of someone else. It protected the woman as much as it protected him.

- _____

Philippians 4:8

Psalm 119:11

- _____

This was part of David's problem when he sinned.

- _____

If you are having a problem, one of the best things you can do is to be accountable to someone and seek help.

7. Temperate

In this text “temperate” means someone who has a clear perspective on life and a correct spiritual orientation.

Definition of TEMPERATE: A state untouched by any slumberous or clouding influence; self-controlled; disciplined.

A temperate person remains stable and steadfast. His thinking is clear. He is “calm, cool, and collected”.

A temperate person does not lose his physical, psychological, or spiritual balance. He always has clear thinking. He does not lose his perspective under pressure.

Temperate also means sober. Its root word in the Greek means to abstain from wine.

8. Sober-minded

Definition of SOBER-MINDED: _____

Romans 12:10

We should not have an exalted view of ourselves.

A sober-minded person is _____

Humility does not mean being weak and having a lack of confidence

A sober-minded person recognizes his unworthiness to be called a child of God, yet stands with boldness and confidence because of who he is in Christ!

A sober-minded person has a proper view of himself.

A sober-minded person is aware of one thing. All that he has (gifts, ability, possessions, etc.) is from God. Without God he is nothing at all.

A sober-minded person has a proper view of the grace of God. He realized that he is lost with Jesus.

Philippians 3:4-7

Proverbs 12:16

Proverbs 14:15

Proverbs 14:18

Proverbs 15:5

Proverbs 18:15