



**Characteristics of a Leader in the Church**  
**Lesson 5: Love What is Good, Just / Holy,**  
**Not a New Convert & Self-Controlled**

**1. Introduction / Review**

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 characteristics of a man or woman of God.

## **2. Love what is good**

Definition of LOVE WHAT IS GOOD: \_\_\_\_\_

“Good” can be defined with Philippians 4:8.

### **Philippians 4:8**

### **Ephesians 4:29**

To “love what is good” and to “do what is good” are not automatic.

Things we need in our lives in order to do what is good:

- \_\_\_\_\_

### **Romans 12:1, 2**

- \_\_\_\_\_

### **2 Timothy 3:16, 17**

- \_\_\_\_\_

### **Colossians 1: 9, 10**

As you do your part, God will do His part.

**Philippians 1:6**

**3. Just / Holy**

A holy person \_\_\_\_\_

The opposite of “holy” is \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 4:1**

This is referring to the practical “walking out” of holiness.

**Matthew 5:16**

**1 Thessalonians 2:10**

**Ephesians 4:17-24**

Definition of JUST: \_\_\_\_\_

In scripture this refers to your right standing with God. But in this case, the word is talking about doing what is right and just in one’s dealings with other people.

“Just conduct” is conduct that \_\_\_\_\_

The meaning of this word goes a little deeper. It also means being able to make mature and proper judgements in relationships with others. In other words, a just person makes wise decisions.

Daniel is a good example of this.

**Daniel 1:19, 20**

The reason for Daniel 1:20 is found in Daniel 1:8.

**Daniel 1:8**

Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ that he would serve God.

#### 4. Not a new convert

##### 1 Timothy 3:6

Definition of NOVICE or A NEW CONVERT: \_\_\_\_\_

Why should a new Christian not be a leader? – He could become prideful if elevated too quickly.

##### Proverbs 16:18

##### James 4:6

Although Paul is speaking about not appointing an elder who is a new convert, there is a broader application. It is dangerous to give any new convert too much prominence.

It is important to realize that a person can be a Christian for many years and still be immature.

Look at these examples in the Corinthian church:

##### 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

##### 1 Corinthians 6:5

Paul is saying that a leader should not be a new convert. He is also saying that the person should also be showing signs of maturity.

A man or woman of God should not be prideful. They should become \_\_\_\_\_

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Of course, most pastors know they should not put a new convert in a leadership position.

The word actually has a secondary meaning that is even more relevant.

Definition #2 of NOVICE or NEW CONVERT:

- In the Greek it literally means a new plant.

- \_\_\_\_\_

This is talking about promoting people too quickly who come from other churches.

People may be gifted and have lots of experience, but if they are new to your garden they need to take time to grow in that place.

##### 1 Timothy 3:6

Definition of PUFFED UP WITH PRIDE:

- The phrase comes from a Greek word in which we get the word typhoon.

- \_\_\_\_\_

When a person is promoted too quickly, they are in danger of becoming prideful and their vision is clouded by their sense of self-importance. This can make them destructive like a typhoon to the church.

## 5. Self-controlled

Definition of SELF-CONTROLLED:

- \_\_\_\_\_

- Denotes power over one's passions, appetites, and desires.
- It comes from a Greek word which means "strength". The same Greek word sometimes translated "power".

Self-control gives us the strength and power to crucify the flesh and live victorious over it.

A leader with this characteristic is able to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Galatians 5:24**

**Romans 8:13**

**1 Corinthians 10:13**