



Characteristics of a Leader in the Church
Lesson 6: How to Develop Biblical Convictions

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. The fruit of living a life of character

1 Timothy 3:13

This reveals to us two rewards of living life with these characteristics are being a faithful leader.

- You will obtain for yourself good standing

Definition of GOOD STANDING: _____

We need men and women of influence in the church.

We need people of integrity and spiritual power that we can go to for guidance.

- You will obtain great boldness in the faith

Definition of GREAT BOLDNESS: _____

When you live a life of character on the inside it propels you to great things that people can see on the outside.

According to this verse, you will have boldness in declaring the Word of God if you live a life of integrity.

3. Biblical convictions

The character traits of a leader help him to live for God.

However, it is important for every believer to develop Biblical convictions in order to walk uprightly before God.

This is especially important for leaders.

James 1:8

Philippians 2:5

Matthew 11:28-30

Doing things God's way is the best way to do things.

Hebrews 5:14

Psalms 119:11

4. How can we know that our convictions are based on the Bible?

We must accept what the Bible teaches about _____

Pray and ask key questions relating to your situation:

- _____

John 14:21

1 Samuel 15:22, 23

Doing what the Bible says is a key part of loving God.

- _____

1 Corinthians 6:19, 20

- _____

Philippians 4:8

- _____

1 Corinthians 6:12

Paul is saying that he will not allow anything to enslave him.

Something that enslaves you does not necessarily mean that it has to be something that is wrong. It could be something that takes too much of your time and energy.

- _____

1 Corinthians 4:2

- _____

Philippians 1:20

1 Corinthians 10:31

- _____

1 Corinthians 10:33

Hebrews 10:24

When making decisions we should take others into consideration.

- _____

1 Corinthians 9:19

- _____

1 Corinthians 11:1

Philippians 4:9

Can I say this to people? - "Just do exactly what I do and you will be okay."

- _____

1 Corinthians 8:9

Romans 14:21

- _____

Philippians 1:9, 10**5. For something to be judged good by God it must meet two requirements.**

- The action must outwardly correspond with the Word of God.
- The inward motive must be love for God and love for our neighbor.

6. Deacons

In this course we studied twenty characteristics that are required for elders.

The Bible also lists qualification for deacons which include many of the same requirements given for elders. However, a few other characteristics are found on the list for deacons which are not included in the text for elders.

Those characteristics can be found in 1 Timothy 3.

1 Timothy 3:8-12

- _____

Definition of REVERENT: Honest

This means that a deacon must be someone who speaks the truth.

- _____

This characteristic goes with being honest and speaking the truth.

Being “double-tongued” means to say one thing to one person and something different to another person, depending on the circumstance.

This kind of person cannot be in leadership because they are inconsistent.

- _____

Definition of HOLDING: Ability

This actually means that a leader must be able to demonstrate a life of faith to others.

People should be able to look at them and learn how to live a life of faith.

They do this and also have a pure conscience.

- _____

This literally means that nobody can say anything bad about them.

If someone makes an accusation against a good leader, the first response from people will naturally be – “That cannot be true. That doesn’t sound like him.”

- _____

This means that leaders do not accuse people falsely.

As a matter-of-fact, you will not hear them talk negatively about people to others.

- _____

This means that a good leader can be trusted in every area of life.