

## What Pastors/Elders are Like?

Titus 1.5-9

### Main Idea

Paul shows us that Pastors which are to be appointed are to be men that show themselves faithful in the home as men of character & conviction that are in keeping with Christ the King.

### Overview

#### **Lead in the Home:**

- Above Reproach: Blameless or Un-indictable; their reputation should be so strong that accusation of falsehood would not stick
- Husband of one wife: Technically means “one woman man”
  - The idea here is that the husband is a man that is faithful in the areas of sex and marriage
  - Christ has always been a “one woman man” in relation to the church
- “Husband” assumes what we see elsewhere in Scripture that the pastorate is like the home, it is to be led by men (i.e. 1 Timothy 2.15, etc.)
- Children are to be “believers”: The word in the Greek is “Faithful”:
  - HCSB’s translation is closest to the original: having faithful children not accused of wildness or rebellion
    - There should be faithfulness that indicates that the husband/father is able to lead his family in an “ordered” manner that reflects something of the order of Christ not the chaos of the world
- A man is not fit to lead a church if he is unable to lead his family since the church is the family of God

#### **Character:**

- Paul describes the kinds of men that should lead the church:
  - Its men of character and conviction (vs. 9) not other things like being a good business leader, etc.
- Overseer & Gods Steward: Descriptions of a Pastor
  - Note the interchangeability of the words (elders, vs. 5)
- 5 Negatives that Pastors (and Christians) should not be:
  - Not Arrogant: Christ was a servant
  - Not Quick Tempered: Christ was slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love
  - Not a Drunkard: Christ was controlled by the Spirit not by Spirits
  - Not Violent: Christ was gracious in the face of disappointment or disagreement
  - Not Greedy for Gain: Christ came to serve not to gain from His people
- 6 Positives that Pastors (and Christians) should be:
  - Hospitable: Christ is welcoming to us in prayer
  - Lover of Good: Christ loved love, righteousness, and faith
  - Self-Controlled: Christ didn’t live according to his flesh, but was controlled by the Spirit of the Lord
  - Upright: Christ was Faithful
  - Holy: Christ was Holy (set apart)
  - Disciplined: Christ was ordered and characterized by His mission not slothfulness

#### **Conviction:**

- Pastors, like all Christians should hold FIRM to the Trustworthy Word as taught (apostolic teaching)
  - They are ordered by the Word not by the World

- Pastors should teach
- Pastors should rebuke those that contradict the Trustworthy Word
  - This assumes there is a wrong way of teaching the word

### Questions

**Discussion Starter:** *In what ways do you see the church choosing leaders that would be different than the way the world would choose leaders for its organizations?*

1. Read Titus 1.5-9. What does it mean to be above reproach? Share some ways you see that, as well as all the other positive characteristics, in Christ.
2. Why is it important that we understand this elder's character qualifications to point to Jesus?
3. What does it mean for an elder to be "the husband of one wife" and for "his children are faithful/believers"?
4. What is it about a family that would indicate a kind of leader one would be? Read Ephesians 5.22-33 and show how the husband is to be leading as Christ in the home.
5. Interact with the 5 negative qualities. Why would these be a problem in the church?
6. Interact with the 6 positive qualities. Why would these things be advantageous in the church?
7. What does it mean to be a person of "character?" Why would this be important in Pastors?
8. Which of these qualities to you excel in? Struggle with?
9. Why is it important for pastors to be firm in their convictions and not lead from comfort/convenience? Why is it important for elders to be able to offer rebukes to those who contradict sound doctrine? How does this protect/increase the health of the church?
10. Describe the source of authority that is functioning in the life of Pastors/Christians. Why is this important in a world of varying ideas like Crete?

**Accountability Question:** *Where are you, by God's grace, excelling in these things? Where are you struggling?*