

## **Firmly Rooted: Biblical Leadership**

### **Overview**

Elders, and all spiritual leaders, are effective only in as much as they are anchored in God's Word. To that end, biblical leadership must be devoted to God's Word, committed to biblical correction, and focused on the heart. All three of these are interconnected and flow out of the Scriptures.

### **Introduction**

Just as medical professionals do amazing work every day in attending to the physical body, so biblical leadership (specifically elders) do amazing work every day on the soul. The difference is that biblical leaders depend not on their own ability and skill but on God's Word. Leaders, in fact, are to be fully anchored on God's Word and immersed in it.

#### **1. Biblical leaders are devoted to God's Word (verse 9 and 13)**

See Deuteronomy 8.3; Psalm 19.7-11; 119.103, 105; Jeremiah 15.16; 23.29; I Thessalonians 2.13

No biblical leader can be effective apart from God's Word. Such a leader functions out of personal devotion (holding fast) to the Scriptures, out of which ministry flows in helping others in the same. Fight against spiritual droughts where you become separated from God's Word.

#### **2. Biblical leaders are committed to biblical correction**

There is quite a description of false teachers Titus and his leaders were up against: Insubordinate, empty talkers, deceivers, of the circumcision party (verse 10); upsetting whole families, teach for shameful gain (verse 11); focused on Jewish myths, focused on non-biblical commands (verse 14), defiled and unbelieving, minds and consciences are defiled (verse 15); add extra ritual practices and rules, say they know God but their lives say otherwise, detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work (verse 16).

Titus was called to silence them (verse 11) and rebuke them sharply (verse 13) that they would be sound in the faith.

### 3. Biblical leaders focus on the heart

See Mark 7.1-23. Ministry is heart work. People only become pure by faith in Jesus Christ. Leaders point people to Christ so that their hearts can be transformed by faith in him.

#### **Reflection Questions** (taken in part from Akin, Chester, and Campbell)

1. In this season of your life how would you evaluate your devotion to God's Word?
2. How can you guard against both legalism and laziness in your pursuit of God's Word?
3. When have you given or received a rebuke that was helpful and positive? When has it been unhelpful and negative?
4. Is confrontation difficult or easy for you? Why?
5. What are some of the harmful effects of false teaching which you have seen? Why do you think God permits false teaching when it does such harm? Can you think of ways in which God has overruled it for good?
6. In what other New Testament passages are the activities of false teachers addressed? Why should it not be a surprise to us that this was such a widespread problem?
7. We should pray that Christ will give his church godly leaders who can teach sound doctrine. What other steps should the church be taking to address this need?
8. What is purity? What does a pure person (v. 15) look like? How can a person achieve purity?
9. Why is adding anything to the gospel of Jesus Christ in effect actually removing Christ from the gospel?
10. What is one personal takeaway from this study and discussion?