

Firmly Rooted Leadership

Overview

In his gracious and merciful providence, God has designed for there to be order in his church through recognized leaders. These leaders (as described by the words: elders/overseers/stewards here in Titus 1) are to have specific life-qualities which are outlined in this letter to Titus (and elsewhere - 1 Timothy 3; 1 Peter 5; Acts 20). The elder is to have his house in order (specifically with regard to his relationship to his wife and children). His life is to be further characterized by qualities of life which reflect a sound understanding and practice of the Gospel. These things must be in place [talking about who he is] so that he can carry out the function of a biblical leader [talking about what he does - instruction in healthy teaching and rebuking those who contradict it]. There is great benefit for the church member who, in obedience to God, lives under the leadership of those he has raised up to lead, feed and protect his church.

Introduction

From the outset of this letter to Titus from the apostle Paul, we learn that there is a clear leadership structure in place: Paul is a servant (slave, bond servant) of God and an apostle (sent one) of Jesus Christ. In the event you haven't been around the Bible much, you need to know that before becoming a follower of Jesus Christ, Paul [who had then been known as Saul] was self-described as the "chief of sinners" [1 Timothy 1:15] because of the religiously-scarred life he had led before the grace of God had appeared to him. Paul recognizes that any authority he has and is passing on to Titus comes as a result of the favor from God which he does not deserve and certainly could never earn (no matter how religious he might have been!) He writes here to Titus who he describes as [his] "true child in a common faith". Now this description is fascinating because when we learn that Titus was a Gentile [in other words, he was not a descendant of Abraham]. So the thing that united Titus and Paul **was not** their common racial background, **nor was it their** common religious background. Prior to their becoming followers of Jesus Christ, Paul and Titus were extremely different people, culturally, religiously, and ethnically. The thing that united Titus and Paul was their common belief and trust and confidence in Jesus Christ as the one and only one who could save them from their corrupt and sinful state of being.

Here it would be helpful to pause for a moment and affirm that what constitutes a true and healthy church is not what we have in common naturally speaking, but that which we have in common because of God's supernatural work in in our hearts....the Spirit of God opening our eyes to see the holiness of God which reveals the sinfulness of our own hearts and causing us to see the glory of Jesus Christ alone as the one and only Savior.

Point # 1: Who are these elders to be?

Answer: They are to be firmly rooted in Integrity

Point # 2: What are these elders to be like?

Answer: a. They are to be firmly rooted in the Home
b. They are to be firmly rooted in Character

Point # 3: What are these elders to do?

Answer: They are to be firmly rooted in trustworthy teaching
a. For the purpose of giving instruction in healthy teaching
b. For the purpose of rebuking those who contradict the healthy teaching

Reflection Questions

1. Read **Acts 20:28-38, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 1 Peter 5:1-4** . How are these passages and the Titus 1:5-9 passage similar with regard to Firmly Rooted Leadership in the church? How are they different?
2. As an active part of the KSBC body, what are specific ways that you are seeing that you need to apply the teaching of **Titus 1:5-9** to your daily walk with the Lord?
3. If an elder is ultimately accountable to God, how does he also serve people? How do people benefit if their elder is obedient to God? How is a leader's accountability to God evaluated and enforced? How does a church member benefit from obeying and submitting to the leaders in the church (**Hebrews 13:17**)?
4. What might a church become if the elders fail to encourage? What if they fail to rebuke?
5. How does this study of **Titus 1:5-9** increase your knowledge about Jesus Christ and the role he has in his church? Read **1 Peter 2:21-22**. How do these verses encourage you in your relationship the one who gave his life for the church?
6. After the study in **Titus 1:5-9**, are there specific commitments you need to make with regard to the church?
7. Are there specific men at KSBC who are not yet elders who came to mind as you read, studied and prayed through **Titus 1:5-9**?
8. After studying the characteristics of a leader listed in **Titus 1:5-9**, what are some ways that you can be praying for the KSBC elders? For each other? For yourself?