

Titus 1:5-9
“Looking for a few good men”

I. Introduction

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I. Introduction

The primary reason Paul left Titus on Crete was that he could “*set in order*” the local fellowships with the things that were lacking. The phrase “*set in order*” in the Greek comes from the medical world and means to set a broken bone. We cannot be sure how long Paul and Titus remained upon the Island but we can say that it was long enough for quite a few people to Christ, establish fellowships and for Paul and Titus to detriment that they were broken and in need of being set in order. Based upon this letter there were several ways to set in order what was broken:

- Vs. 6-9 Establishment of leadership
- 2:1-10 Set order in home, church and work place
- 2:11 – 3:14 Maintain healthy living

II. Vs. 5-6 What the Church needs

Vs. 5 Verse five reveals four facts about Paul command for Titus to train up qualified believers from the new converts who Paul had already acknowledged were “*liars, evil beasts and lazy gluttons*”.

1. The fact that Titus was to do this in “*every city*” reveals not only how effective the outreach had been but also how challenging the task was for Titus was.
2. The plan of Jesus *wasn't salvation alone it was sanctification, not conversion only but discipleship.*
3. Paul says that Titus was to “*Appoint*” these elder not elect them by popular vote, or select them on their own self-promotion.

4. Titus was to look for men who had the characteristics of transformation while in the very recent past they had been “*liars, evil beasts and lazy gluttons*”. God has specific qualifications for leaders in the Church. A person may think they are called but are they qualified? They were not to be chosen at random, selected because they volunteered, character mattered!

Vs. 6 Before we get into the list of 12 characteristics we need to understand that these qualifications had nothing to do with:

- Going to seminary
- Being a good communicator
- Having certain spiritual gifts

What qualified a person for leadership was a ***godly character***. It is fair that everyone asks of their spiritual leadership that they measure up to these 12 characteristics but it’s also fair for the spiritual leadership to encourage every person in church to aspire to these same 12 characteristics. This is not a rigid list that demands perfection in all areas, instead it provides goals to reach and general criteria for selection. We should ask: “***Does the person we are looking at for leadership desire all these characteristics with all their heart? And does that desire show itself in their life?***” Generally we see that these:

- A. ***Standards didn’t change***: This list appears in Paul first letter to Timothy in chapter 3 and suggests that these characteristics were THE STANDARDS no matter where the physical location of the church was at.
- B. ***Expectations didn’t change***: This list was not to be diminished even if the place you had the church was located in a community noted for the community behavior as always being, “*liars, evil beasts and lazy gluttons*”. There may have been more people in Ephesus that could measure up to these standards than in the small communities on the Island of Crete but that didn’t lessen the standards, though the search was more difficult.

Paul offers to Titus ***three pre-qualifications*** a person must have before consideration as he writes “***if a man***”:

1. ***Blameless***: The word means “*nothing to take a hold of*” and has to do with the person’s character and means that they are to be “*above reproach*”. That doesn’t mean that they never do anything wrong as we wouldn’t ever find a person that would qualify. The word means that ***when*** they have done something wrong they handled it

right, by being open, and accepting responsibility, seeking reconciliation and desiring to live righteously.

2. **Husband of one wife:** Literally this says a, “*one woman man*” and does not mean that the man has to be married as both Jesus and Paul would have been disqualified. When this was written the culture that was dominated by Greek thought which thought that a man ought to have three women in his life:

- *Mistress:* For conversation
- *Concubine:* For pleasure
- *Wife:* For children

Paul says, no you need to be a one woman man!

3. **Having faithful children:** The word “*faithful*” in the Greek means “*believing*”; person who was qualified to serve the church had to demonstrate this by being qualified at home. This would mean that the home of the church leader should see children who were for the most part examples of obedience and were not living a rebellious and disobedient life style while under the same roof.

III. Vs. 7-8 Character matters

Vs. 7-8 This second list of 12 suggests that while holding the office they need to maintain these standards. And Paul again use that an overseer must be a person who is “beyond reproach” and when they do something that is against the word of God they are able to handle it rightly.

1. **As a steward of God:** A steward does own, he manages all that the Master puts in his hands. The most important aspect of stewardship is faithfulness as we are called to use what God has entrusted to us for the good and glory of the Mater, not for us personally.
2. **Not self-willed:** The word only appears twice in the N.T. here and 2 Peter 2:10 and means not “*self-pleasing*”. A person who is “*self-willed*” shows this nature in arrogance, stubbornness and a proud self-focus. The servant of Christ must remember that he is just that and serve in ways that bless others and glorify God.

3. **Not quick tempered**: This word only appears here in the N.T. and is different than the word as Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 3:3 where he said that the elder wasn't to be a brawler. Here the word means that they ought to be able to control their temper. There was a rule in the early church that said, "*A pastor who strikes an erring believer should be let go.*" Leadership should never beat the sheep! "*Temper is a wonderful thing and it's a shame to lose it!*"
4. **Not given to wine**: The word means that the elder is not to be getting drunk or becoming intoxicated. It doesn't mean that they are not to drink wine it means that they are never to get drunk.
5. **Not violent**: This word is often translated into the English as "*pugnacious*" which isn't a word we hear much any more but means combative, aggressive or antagonistic. The elder must not be combative, aggressive or antagonistic person, they must not be looking for an argument or looking to attack someone else who has a different view.
6. **Not greedy for money**: In 1st Timothy Paul used this phrase in reference to both deacons and elders. The leader must not be into leadership for what he can get out of it but instead what he can put into it! Too often the church has made the mistake at looking only for those people of wealth and influence who put their interest above the cause of Christ.
7. **Hospitable**: They need to be people who are willing to open their home and their lives to strangers as well as friends. People who are desiring to open their lives to others. What a great quality as often it is our hospitality towards others that opens hearts to the word.

8. **A lover of what is good**: They need to be promoters of virtue in all things, literature, music, good causes and people. **A person who has a good heart surrounds themselves with good things**. A servant of God won't surround themselves with things that will do them and others harm.
9. **Sober minded**: This describes a person who is able to think clearly, not a person who lacks the ability to deal with matters seriously. This doesn't mean that they have no sense of humor but rather they know when to joke around and when not to, as they don't want to cheapen the ministry by making it a joke.
10. **Just**: This word is also rendered "upright" and speaks of being a person of integrity who sticks to their word and practices what they preach.
11. **Holy**: The idea behind the Greek word is "*unstained*" which in the biblical use meant different from the unsaved world. Leaders in the church are charged with being different from the people around us because we are new creations in Christ Jesus.
12. **Self-controlled**: This word is also rendered "*temperate*" and it applies to a person's appetites and actions. A synonym of this word is disciplined and that is a good word for the servant of Christ, they must live a disciplined life able to get their work done on time, able to discipline their desires. A person cannot govern themselves are unfit to govern the church.

IV. Vs. 9 What leaders do

Vs. 9 Finally Paul writes as to what church leaders are supposed to do.

4. **Holding fast the faithful word**: Paul loved the word "*faithful*" in the Greek in means "*trust worthy*" the elder is to "*cling to the trust worth Word of God*". The

leader will need to cling to facts and not chase fads, he will need to stick **TO** the Word of God and then stick **WITH** the Word of God. Paul says that their clinging to the Word is based upon as “*they have been taught*” thus they need to be students before and after they are teachers. They will need to know how to appropriate the word rightly to others as Paul mentions two ways:

- **Exhort**: Be able to use the word of God to encourage those who are on the right tract to stay on it.
- **Convict**: Those who are on the wrong tract will need to be held accountable to the word. _

Martin Luther said, “*A preacher must be both soldier and shepherd. He must nourish, defend, and teach; he must have teeth in his mouth and be able to bite and fight.*”