

**提多书 1:6-8 – “每位牧師/長老都必須在他的家庭和他的品格上是無可非議的！”**

**\*\*READ THE TEXT\*\***

**INTRO-**

*Introductory Illustration*

- Many Church leaders can FALL into patterns of SIN — (1) IDOLATRY — wants to always be in control; (2) PRAYERLESSNESS — a trust in self; little trust in God; (3) UNBELIEF — lack of trust that Christ rules/protects His church & will save & use HIS Word to grow his people; (4) LACK OF LOVE FOR SHEEP — a leader can fall into studying, administrating, ruling, managing, directing, overseeing, decision-making *and yet still not have an affectionate love for the people of God.* (5) PRIDE — he feels as though the church & GOD needs HIM. He gets angry when he doesn't get his way b/c he feels like he's the one in Charge.
  - AND yet — here in Titus 1 we have the NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE portrait of leadership. What must a leader AVOID and what must a leader BE.
- SATAN knows that if he can defile the shepherds' marriages & character, the sheep will follow. \*\*\*SO TO PROTECT THE ELDER'S QUALIFICATIONS IS TO PROTECT THE WHOLE CHURCH. Uphold, maintain high calling of a pastor/elder.
  - **Richard Baxter counseled all church leaders** = Take heed to yourselves, lest you live in those sins which you preach against in others, and lest you be guilty of that which daily you condemn!!!
- The man who serves as an elder must be *above reproach* in domestic piety -- in his marriage & in his parenting, in his sexuality & in his leadership. He must be above reproach in his HOME, IN HIS HEART & in the WORD.
  - Does his LIFE match what he preaches?
  - Is his life a commentary on his sermons?
  - Does he preach one thing but un-preach it with his life? diligently *care for HIS people well* ?

*Background to Titus 1*

- Paul charges Titus to set things in order in the churches on Crete & appoint elders in every city (v.5). They are to be men who are 'above reproach'.
- Why such high qualifications? Because CHRIST is the Head of His Church & He is the **Chief Shepherd, the Good Shepherd!** All of his undershepherds must faithfully *represent Him* and diligently *care for HIS people well.* (1 Pet 5 - shepherd the flock of God!)

THESIS — From Titus 1:5-9 we will learn **God's blueprint** for biblical church leadership.

v.6a - he must be — ABOVE REPROACH — in 3 primary realms:

1. domestic piety (6-7a) — in the **HOME**
2. honorable character (7-8) — in the **HEART**
3. theological fidelity (9) — in the **ABILITY**

## **I. ABOVE REPROACH IN DOMESTIC PIETY (6-7a)**

A. the priority of the HOME --> Why the home?

1. can't hide much in the home
2. a person's real character comes out in the home (patterns, habits, lifestyle, ambitions, responses/reactions)
3. how he manages his 'small flock' will gauge how he manages his 'large flock' (private home life >> public ministry life)

B. HE must be above reproach in the **DOMESTIC PIETY -- IN THE HOME -- in 2 ways:**

1. Note this by way of intro: the *home* is the training ground for *public ministry*. **(1) It's like** the dating/engagement period to ensure you have a person of integrity, godliness, character & faithfulness *before* the marriage covenant is formed. **(2) It's one thing** to see a beautiful red car & desire it but you must lift up the hood and make sure the engine & parts are all present & functioning properly under the surface.

C. **sexual purity** - faithfulness to his wife

1. **\*SO\*** -- his body, his eyes, his heart, his feelings, desires are FOR HIS WIFE ALONE:

- a) **He communes with God** [he is near to God]
- b) **He flees from temptation** [when temptation comes; he runs/flees]
- c) **He resists temptations by Grace** [he doesn't give up, give in, but resists]
- d) **He pursues his wife** [he's passionately pursuing his God-given treasure]
- e) **He is satisfied with his wife** [exhilarated, drunk, happy, satisfied w/ her]
- f) **He remembers marriage pictures the gospel** [causes him to be faithful]

2. TODAY in our culture, marriage is in confusion. Many denominations allow women to be pastors, they hire homosexuals to be bishops, or allow same-sex attracted men to be seminary professors, bible college teachers, and pastors and biblical counselors, and conference speakers. Far too many shepherds in ministry have adulterated their ministries with the whore of pornography and emotional flings.

- a) quite simply: let me just remind you Paul says: he must be a ONE WOMAN MAN (not a ONE MAN MAN)

3. How?

- a) *how*??? (1) DEVOTION (to God), (2) DISTANCE (from temptation), (3) DRINK/DELIGHT (in his wife).

**D. domestic piety** - leadership of his children

1. The point? how does the man parent and lead and shepherd his children? Does the elder excuse his kids' sin or discipline the kids for their sin? HIS response will show how qualified he is to serve as an elder. **The one who** leads diligently, pastors faithfully, teaches biblically, exhorts fatherly, rebukes tenderly & walks patiently with his kids *shows what kind of pastor he'll be.*
2. the issue is not perfect children, or converted children or a perfect home.
3. The question is: HOW does the family shepherd minister the gospel to THOSE under his care in the home when sin is present? **\*That** is what qualifies him!
4. is he able to guide, care, rebuke, confront, pray with, shepherd, minister grace to, and walk humbly with those?

**II. ABOVE REPROACH IN HONORABLE CHARACTER (7-8)**

*He must be ABOVE REPROACH in 3 primary realms:*

1. domestic piety (in the home) (6) - in the **HOME**
2. honorable character (7-8) - in the **HEART**
3. theological fidelity (9) - in the **WORD**/ability

*But in v.7 - we see 5 negative vices about the character of the man. If he is truly above reproach, then he must **\*NOT\*** have these sins describe his lifestyle:*

1. pride
2. anger
3. drunkenness
4. quarreling
5. greediness

**I. NOT SELF-WILLED (no pride)**

- A. Not self-willed; NIV: overbearing; ESV: arrogant; not bossy; not self-pleasing.
- B. The word μή αὐθάδῃ speaks of being Self-pleasing, self-willed, arrogant
- C. He is headstrong, independent, self-assertive and ungracious >> particularly toward those who differ. He is NOT a team player and the ability to work as a team is hard for this man b/c he's so focused on/consumed w/ self.

**II. NOT QUICK-TEMPERED (no anger)**

- A. Not quick-tempered; KJV: 'not soon angry'; not 'hot tempered'; irritable.
- B. The issue is not whether or not he ever loses his temper. The issue is: whether or not he **recognizes** when he does, and if he controls himself and; here's the man who repents quickly and seeks to be gentle & strives to mortify this sin!

**III. NOT ADDICTED TO WINE (no drunkenness)**

- A. Not addicted to wine; ESV: drunkard; not a heavy/excessive drinker;
- B. However accepted or expected or widespread this is in the culture of Crete or in our own, **God's man must never be controlled by alcohol (or any substance) -- not in the least!**

#### IV. NOT PUGNACIOUS (no quarreling)

- A. The pugnacious man μὴ πλήκτην is 'violent' ESV; not a 'bully'; he's not quick to strike with his hand. >> a violent person, a bully; a bruiser; who is always ready with a blow.; he's contentious, quarrelsome
- B. Quite simply: this guy is a quarreler. (*Obviously, it includes all abuse -- never should a man \*ever\* abuse his wife, or his children or others -- physically, sexually or verbally*). But the idea here is one who is a bully, a striker, a contentious quarreler.

#### V. NOT FOND OF SORDID GAIN (no greediness)

- A. ESV: "not greedy for gain"; not dishonest with money. Not dishonest with his business, money; doesn't make money in shameful ways.
  - 1. Interestingly: this was one of the defining marks of the Cretans (dishonest, discreditable, unfavorable handling of money)

- The leadership in Christ's Church must be
  - 1. a plurality in leadership
  - 2. male leadership
  - 3. stewards of God (in His household)
  - 4. above reproach leadership\*\* [Jesus is our Model]

➡ **\*THERE IS NOTHING** here about >>> speaking ability, organizational skills, how many he's baptized, leadership & personality traits, seminary degrees, published books, social media involvement, OR being innovative, clever, cutting edge. >>> **in fact, the list has almost nothing to do with what the man has "DONE" — it has to do with who the man "IS."**

#### 6 virtues to pursue (in v.8)

##### I. HOSPITABLE

- A. Hospitable; 'enjoy having guests in his home' NLT; friendly to strangers CEV;
- B. The word φιλόξενον means opening your home to strangers.
- C. hospitality is a concrete and tangible expression of Christian love and family life.

##### II. LOVING WHAT IS GOOD

- A. Loving what is good: this word was used referring to: "**A lover of VIRTUE**"
- B. The word φιλόγαθον refers "one who willingly does good with self-denial; he is kind"
  - 1. Hendriksen says: "he is ready to do what is *beneficial to others*"
  - 2. The early church spoke of this as the *UNWEARYING activity of LOVE.*"

##### III. SENSIBLE

- A. Must be sensible; 'self-controlled' (ESV); "sober" (KJV); "live wisely" (NLT)
- B. The word σώφρονα refers to the idea of self-control, prudence, sobriety. But with self-control, the emphasis is particularly with making good judgment. He is thoughtful and controlled in the mind.

#### IV. JUST

- A. Must be just, upright (ESV, NIV), righteous (CSB)
- B. The word δίκαιον refers to that which is righteous, law-abiding, upright, obedient to God.

#### V. DEVOUT

- A. The NASB has 'devout'; it is 'holy' (ESV, NIV), 'moral', (ISV), pious, saintly.
- B. The idea of the word ὅσιον is to be 'practically' holy; his conduct is set apart. A pure, unpolled life. No stain that has marred his character.
  - ❖ This MAN can pray with Robert Murray M'Cheyne: "Lord, make me as holy as a pardoned sinner can be."
  - 1. This man is "firmly committed to God and his Word." He's superglued to the Truth. He is separated unto God and pleasing to Him.
  - 2. Despite the changing winds of culture and circumstances, the devout person faithfully clings to God and His word & he'll *Live in Holiness!*

#### VI. SELF-CONTROLLED

- A. NASB has 'self-controlled;' or 'disciplined' (ESV/NIV); temperate (KJV); keep himself from lusts. He masters his 'drives'.
- B. Here the word ἐγκρατῆ speaks of self-control & self-discipline --> in every area of life, especially physical desires. Here is one who has control over his emotions, impulses or desires in life.

- Note how we haven't even gotten to all his 'talents, and abilities and duties and ministerial functions yet.'

- The Man's CHARACTER must be the foundation for his MINISTERIAL WORK.
- The Man's HEART is crucial and foundational before his abilities and talents. (1 Sam 16.7)

- MAN must be above reproach in his (1) HOME, (2) HEART, (3) ABILITY/WORD.
  - the WORD and the Scripture MUST be there (don't wanna downplay it) >> but what makes these powerful and effective is that they are married with/joined to godly characters in the heart & in the home.
  - **Christian — may these character qualities be FOUND in you as well. Not only for church-leaders, but for all Christians! May God work these deep in our hearts!!!!**

So the church-leader must be ABOVE REPROACH in 3 primary realms:

1. domestic piety (in the home) (6) - in the **HOME**
2. honorable character (7-8) - in the **HEART**
3. theological fidelity (9) - in the **WORD/ability** **\*\*next week\*\***

## CONCL-

- **John Eliot** — was born in 1604 and was a missionary to the Native Americans. While in college, both his parents died. He loved to tell of the infinite riches of God's mercy in Christ saved his poor soul. When God saved him, he saw and understood the power of godliness. He then devoted himself fully to pastoral ministry.
- He served the Roxbury Church in England for more than 50 years. He loved his people, he prayed with them, he preached Christ to them, he modeled holiness for them.
- He was such a lover of men that he thought of the lost and did not fear for his own life.
- One biographer said: Eliot was a man of great piety and single-hearted dedication: "He was one who lived in heaven while he was on earth."
- He pleaded with his congregation to be lovers of Good and to help others as much as they could.
  - He was a man of prayer, a man of truth, a man of single-minded devotion to God, and a man who loved to help others in need.
- He died at 86 years of age & all he could focus on was CHRIST. His heart was fully given to CHRIST! *May the reputation of the character of Eliot also be YOURS & MINE also.*