

## Qualifications for Leadership: A Lover of Good (Titus 1:8)

### 1. We must understand good

Definition: Good is a general term of commendation or anything of excellence. Good is a term that evokes a favorable response.

Two categories of “good” ...

General:

Moral:

Four Potential Sources

- I. Individual
- II. Societal/Cultural
- III. Authority
- IV. God

The unregenerate can be of good use (2 Kings 10:29-31, 12:2; Luke 6:33; Romans 3:12)

Works done by unregenerate men, although for the matter of them may be things which God commands; and of good use both to themselves and to others: yet, because they proceed not from a heart purified by faith; nor are done in a right manner, according to the Word; nor to a right end; the glory of God, they are therefore sinful, and cannot please God, or make a man to meet to receive grace from God. (Westminster Confession of Faith)

### 2. Only God is good (Exodus 33:19, 34:6-8; Mark 10:17)

God’s goodness is expressed through his mercy and his grace. All benefit from common grace but not all benefit from special grace. God is good to all in some ways and to some in all ways. His goodness does not obligate him to give the same blessing to everyone, or to give the same blessings to any creature throughout his existence.

### 3. We have a problem that we cannot fix ourselves (Isaiah 64:6; Ezekiel 33:13)

What good has God done for man?

1. He has revealed himself (as Creator) through general revelation
2. He has sustained the hearts and minds of those who reject him (for a season) through common grace
3. He has offered forgiveness to rebellious and sinful men through faith in Jesus Christ alone
4. Permitted and directed suffering as a means to regeneration and/or sanctification

A lover of good will:

1. Extend mercy and bless those who deserve punishment because God has extended mercy to them
2. Look to God to render vengeance (Romans 12:19)
3. Provide physical, mental, and spiritual help because God has done the same for them
4. Not murmur against the lot God has assigned because he knows the heart of his Father in heaven
5. Will point others to the standard of goodness (God himself) and plead with man to be reconciled to God through faith
6. Especially bless other Christians (Galatians 6:10)
7. Will give God all the credit for whatever virtue he possesses because God is the one who wills and works for his good purpose (Philippians 2:12-13)

Are you a lover of good?