

Getting back in Focus

Trust and Respect for Leaders, part 1 - Titus 1:5b

Introduction:

• **1 Samuel 4**

• **Titus 1:5** *For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,*

#1. The importance of Elders to the _____ of a Local church

Isaiah 9:16 *For those who guide this people are leading them astray...*

Jeremiah 5:31 *The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule on their own authority; And My people love it so!*

2 Tim. 4:3 ... *they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth...*

1 Cor. 15:33 *Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good morals*

#2. Who _____ Elders

1 Timothy 3:6 *and not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.*

5:22 *Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily and thus share responsibility for the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin.*

Hebrews 13:17 *Obey your leaders and submit to them ...*

Acts 15:22 *it seemed good to the elders, with the whole congregation.*

Acts 20:28 *Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

• **What is a call by God to be an elder?**

#1. A strong passionate _____ to be an elder

1 Timothy 3:1 *if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do*

#2. _____ by God's standards

22 1 Timothy 3 & Titus 3

2 **#3. Uniquely gifted to _____ God's Word.**

1 Tim. 3:2 *An overseer, ...must be ... able to teach,*

Titus 1:9 *he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.*

#4. Produced the fruit of _____ in the church

John 15:8 *By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, 16 and that your fruit should remain*

#3. The crucial _____ of Elders, *seen in their...*

1st - Unique _____

Titus 1:5 *appoint elders in every city as I directed you, 7 For the overseer must be above reproach ...*

Acts 20:17...Paul... called to him the elders of the church. **28** *Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

1 Pet. 5:1 *Therefore, I exhort the elders among you... 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight*

2nd - Unusual _____

Acts 15:2 *Paul and Barnabas ...should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.*

Acts 15:22 *Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church,*

Acts 16:4 *decided upon by the apostles and elders*

Acts 21:18 *And now the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present.*

Acts 14:23 *And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.*

• What about Titus?

Titus 1:5 *For this reason I left you in Crete,*

2 Tim. 4:13 *bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus,*

2 Tim. 4:20 *Trophimus I left sick at Miletus.*

Rom. 11:4 *I have kept for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.*

Eph. 5:31 *For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife;*

Titus 3:13 *Diligently help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way so that nothing is lacking for them.*

Titus 3:12 *When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, make every effort to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.*

Conclusion:

1 Peter 5:4 *And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.*

In preparation for the Lord's Table

Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 and ask the following questions

1. Am I a true Christian? 2 Corinthians 13:5 *Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you- unless indeed you fail the test?*

2. Am I living by the Word of God in submission to the Holy Spirit? Galatians 5:16 *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.*

3. Am I currently in right relationship with others?

Matthew 5:23-24 *If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.*

4. Have I confessed all known sin of commission (doing what the Bible says not to do) and all sins of omission (not doing what the Bible commands to do)? Ephesians 4:30 *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. I Thessalonians 5:19: Do not quench the Spirit;*

5. Am I remembering the cost Jesus paid for my salvation?

1 Corinthians 11:24 *and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."*

6. Parents, are the above questions true of your children so that they may partake without judgment? 1 Corinthians 11:27-28 *Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.*

Review

#1. The importance of Elders

#2. Who selects Elders

#3. The crucial role of Elders, *as seen in their*

1st - Unique titles

2nd - Unusual number

Next Week

3rd - Essential _____

#1 - Take _____ from the head

#2 - Build up the _____ of the body

#3 - _____ the health of the body

4th - Their weighty _____

5th - Delegated _____

#4. Focused _____ *of one local church*

#5. Biblical Apostolic _____