

Leadership in the Body of Christ – Part 1

Review

- The church in the NT is described as a body with many members (Rom. 12:4-5). TCC is a new body with members that have different backgrounds, teachings, maturity, gifts..., but we must learn to **function** as one body to do God's will.
- Jesus is the head of the body (church): He rules over the church with all authority & the church is to be submissive to Him in loving obedience. If we (the body) are to function properly, we must obey the instruction of the Head by His **word & Spirit**.
- There are two offices or official roles for leadership in NT: Overseer & Deacon (Phil. 1:1).

I. The Office of an Overseer (1Tim. 3:1)

A. The calling is from God (Ac. 20:28)

This role in the body is assigned by God Himself, not by man's choosing or preference. The same irresistible power that saves a sinner, calls a man to this role (Phil. 2:13).

B. The office or role is established by God (1Tim. 3:1)

The head of the church has established that this role is necessary – “noble task”. This is labor or work for the church. God defines the work as good or noble even though there will be opposition, hurt, abuse & misuse from people. The biblical name of the office is “ἐπισκοπή” which is translated overseer or bishop.

C. The office is reserved for male leadership (1Tim. 2:11-14)

Also “the husband of one wife” & “manage ... household”. There are serious consequences for leaders (Jas. 3:1).

II. The Qualifications of an Overseer (1Tim. 3:2-7; Tit. 1:6-9)

A. Observe the man in his personal life

- Sober-minded (*balanced thinking/reasoning; restraint*)
- Self-controlled (*wise; thoughtful; in control of emotions under pressure*)
- Respectable (*Well-ordered; well-arranged*)
- **Not** a drunkard (*Not addicted to alcohol or drugs*)
- **Not** violent (*No physical abuse in anger*)
- Gentle (*Gracious & yielding while powerful*)

- **Not** quarrelsome (*Not argumentative or contentious*)
- **Not** a lover of money (*Rejects gaining money by compromising biblical principles*)

B. Observe the man in his family life

- Husband of one wife (*if married, not polygamous; not unbiblically divorced [Mt. 19:9; 1Co. 7:15]; loves wife*)
- Hospitable (*Enjoys sharing home with others*)
- Manages his own household well (*Demonstrates wise leadership at home*)
- Keeping his children submissive (*children willingly obey him; including older children living at home – Tit. 1:6*)

Church life is a mirror of family life (1Tim. 3:5)!

C. Observe the man in his church life

- Able to teach (**Gifted** to effectively communicate God's truth to a assembly of gathered believers & unbelievers)
- Not a recent convert (*Mature Christian having been tested with various trials of life*); **temptations are many...**

D. Observe the man in his life among unbelievers

- Well thought of by outsiders (*Respected by unbelievers*); **not a hypocrite outside church – this is the devil' snare/trap!**

Above Reproach in all these areas: *Willing to correct any legitimate sin in any area of his life; no willful hidden areas of sin*

III. The Duties of an Overseer

Shepherd or pastor (ποιμαίνω – Ac. 20:28; 1Pe. 5:2):

- A. Leading & protecting = RULING (1Tim. 3:4-5; 5:17)
This involves establishing priorities, discerning needs, resolving conflict, decision-making, etc.
- B. Feeding = ministry of the word (1Tim. 3:2; 2Tim. 4:1-2)
This involves teaching, preaching & counseling.
- C. Caring for practical needs
*This involves food (Ac. 6:1-2), health (Jas. 5:14) & finances (Ac. 4:37; 5:2). In order to maintain teaching & ruling priorities, these duties may be **delegated to deacons** but the overseer is ultimately responsible!*

CONCLUSION

Now my beloved brothers & sisters in Christ, we spent our time today looking at the character & duties of an overseer. But you know that an overseer is placed in the body as an example for you to fulfill your role & calling in this body and for you to strive to live up to the high moral character that Jesus (the Head) requires of us all (Phil. 2:15). So would you hold these qualities up before your own life as a mirror & see where you stand? Are you sober-minded, respectable, gentle, free from love of money, etc.? If so, thank the Lord & ask Him to continue to help you grow in these areas. If not pray, ask the Lord for true repentance & power to change... And pray for me that I would also know true repentance where I need to be conformed more into the image of Christ...

If you are not a Christian, you cannot change by your own power & simply decide you want to take up the character qualities. No my friend you must be changed from the inside; your thoughts, desires, will & emotions must all be radically changed. You must be born again. **The gospel...**

SUBJECT: Leadership in the Body of Christ – Part 1

TEXT: 1 Timothy 3:1-15

LOCATION: Trinity Community Church

DATE: January 9, 2011

OCASSION: Sunday Morning Worship Svc

SERMON INDEX NUMBER: 934

FILE LOCATION: BX4

Prepared by Willie D. Woodmore