

Revisiting the Documents of the New Testament (3)

Lesson #13

Scripture: 1 Timothy 3:1-7 *“It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. 2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. 4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity 5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), 6 and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. 7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”*

Introduction:

In the above words we find the qualities and description of a mature Christian man. This type of person has spent much time at the alter of God and much deep consideration about the direction of his life.

Elders are men who have surrendered their lives to God. They have completely given their lives over to God’s shaping and molding.

These guys have given up much of their own desires for time spent in service to the Lord and His purposes.

I can tell you for sure that our own elders are men who have developed a sacrificial heart for God’s kingdom purposes.

Transitional Statement:

Church, in our quest to establish qualifying list for elders, we have missed the point that each one of us should be heading down this same path of spiritual growth in our lives. Whether you are a man, woman you should aspire toward all these qualities in your life. An important place to consider spirituality is our relationships.

I. Home relations: Spouses

A. What is marriage?

1. Genesis chapters 1-2

- a. Marriage comes from God and He has the right to legislate it Gen 1:27
- b. Marriage includes diverse parties
- c. Marriage is designed for mutual service.

- d. Marriage is about unity
- e. Marriage is about commitment
- f. Marriage ultimately describes our relationship with God.

B. How do you treat your spouse

- 1. Ephesians 5:21-23
 - a. Loving unselfishly
 - b. Love and Respect

C. Is your marriage growing for God

- 1. Or stuck in the ditch?

II. Home relations: Children

A. How do you raise your children?

B. Do we understand that our children belong to God and we are responsible for their care and spiritual growth?

- 1. And have we put the instruction of righteousness at the top of our list?
- 2. Deuteronomy 6:7 “...*You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.*”

C. Or has our selfish desires taken the place of time spent together.

- 1. Are you consumed with plans for your next vacation
- 2. Or does sporting events consume your life.
- 3. There isn't anything wrong with either of these things, but they cannot replace close personal time spent together.

D. Are you easily angered?

- 1. Do you take it out on your children?

E. God gave us as parents a very unique responsibility to manage our relationships with our children, because it is through this process that our children learn how to manage the relationships of their lives.

F. I think our instruction to our children should include the admission of failings

- 1. And sharing the desire for them to do better.

III. Church relations

A. Apt to teach

1. Not one that stands back and lets everyone else do the work
2. But one is diligent in the study of God's word.
 - a. And willing to share God with others.
3. One that isn't afraid of making mistakes
 - a. But willing to jump in and get his boots dirty.

B. One who stays attune to the needs of others.

1. Approaching those who look down trodden to see if they can help

C. An openness that is willing to share hard life experiences to help others.

IV. Community relations

A. Remembering that we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world

B. Do we make sure that all of our dealings with the community leaves no room for accusation.

1. Are we willing to struck on the cheek without retaliation....for the Lord's sake

C. Are we willing to help in the community for the good of others.

1. Or does the community know us as people who are only willing to receive.

Conclusion:

Are we people of God or people of the world?

Are we temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.