

QUALIFICATIONS OF A LEADER

Intro:

- A. Review: Preacher, Know Your Call
 - 1. Servant
 - 2. Steward
 - 3. Example

- B. We will be emphasizing the third point in this message.
 - 1. Heb. 13:7

 - 2. Preachers are to be an example to the church

I. God's Qualifications for Leadership Are Different Than Mans

- A. The people wanted a man like Saul (1Sam 8:5, 20; 9:2) - But Saul failed.

- B. God wanted a man after his own heart.
 - A man after God's heart (1Sam. 13:14)
 - Looks at the heart (1Sam. 16:7)

- C. Why God looks for men with Godly character to lead his church.
 - Lev. 11:44, 45 "I am holy."
 - 1 Pet. 1:16 "Be holy"
 - Lev. 18 – 20 "Be holy because I am the Lord and am holy."

- D. All of God's people are to be people of character

- E. All of God's people are to "walk worthy" of their calling.

Note: Many verses - we'll look at several – one at a time. Eph. 4:1, 1 Thes. 2:12; Col. 1:10; Phil. 1:27 All are to walk worthy.

Review Leaders are to be examples of those who are walking worthy of the Lord.
Notice how often Paul talked about being imitators.

Not in notes – Listen – Take good notes

Phil. 3:17-18; 1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1; Phil. 4:9; 1 Thes 1:6; 2 Thes. 2:10-14
(note v. 14); 2 Thes. 3:7; 1 Tim. 4:12; especially Heb. 13:7; 1 Pet. 5:3

Summary We represent the King of Kings, Holy Savior and Lord, and our lives
(Ambassadors) should be a testimony to the glory and holiness of God.

II. Practical Areas In Which Preachers Are to Be Examples

A. Begin with the God-given qualifications for being a pastor
(Elder and pastor are same person in Scripture.) (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9)

1. Above reproach – NOT sinless just not a target of blame or accusations ('blameless')
This is a general qualification.

2. Husband of one wife – a "one woman man" NOT "just one wife".
Also, NOT involved with any woman who is not his wife.

Illustration: No adultery means no lustful eyes (Matt. 5:27-28)
No divorce except (Matt. 19:8-9)

We are to love our wives (Eph. 5:25, 28; Col. 3:9; 1 Pet. 3:7)

Summary: As a pastor, our marriages ought to be models/examples of what God wants for
every marriage.

Next Some terms are different in different translations

3. Temperate – Generally, "abstaining from wine or strong drink."
Here it means "free from ANY form of excess" particularly in moral or spiritual
matters.

The pastor is not to do anything in excess. Is "self-controlled"

Illustrations: Keeping watch

- 1 Pet. 5:8 keep watch, Satan is out to devour
- Mature in his judgment
- Cautious: We can become excessive in almost anything (In America: Television, sports, computers.)
- Paul's testimony: 1 Cor. 6:12 not mastered by anything.

4. Sensible = self controlled
Sound mind (thinks clearly)
Has the ability to say "NO" to his own desires

Verses: 1 Cor. 9:27; 1 Tim. 4:6-7; 2 Tim. 1:7

Illustrations: Perhaps you desire the world's goods like TVs, cars, nice home, cell phone. If you don't control
these desires, they could lead you into sin if you attempt to get them. Some will lie, cheat, or steal to get
possessions like these. But the man of God is sensible and self-controlled.

5. Respectable

The focus is on human behavior
Puts emphasis on being well-ordered or “well behaved”
Mannerly – a gentleman
“Are you courteous? Do you demonstrate good manners?”

6. Hospitable = means “lover of strangers”

Has an open home to all
Loves everyone, even strangers

7. Able to teach (Note: the only qualification that is not a moral quality)

Compare Titus 1:9 with 2 Tim. 2:24-26

Teaching is the pastor’s role

A steward of the mysteries of God

“Teach the Word” (1 Tim. 4:13)

8. Not addicted to wine (Eph. 5:18)

In some cultures, drinking alcohol as a Christian is more acceptable than in other cultures.

But Eph. 5:18 only says do not get drunk

There is no excuse for any pastor to get drunk, ever.

I personally do not drink at all, NOT because the Bible says not to, but because I do not want to be a stumbling block to a fellow Christian.

9. Pugnacious/Violent = “to striker” (not a striker)

A pastor is not to pick fights

A pastor is not to be abusive

A pastor is not to have a quick temper

Instead he is to be “gentle” (#10)

10. Gentle

11. Peaceable

12. Free from the love of money

Pastors ought to be paid, but they shouldn’t be in love with money

1 Cor. 9:14-18

Paul was preaching because he was CALLED NOT because he got paid.

Some men consider being a preacher/pastor a job like anything else. It becomes a way to make some money. But that isn’t right

If you are doing it for money, you have the wrong reason.

“Love of money” is dangerous (1 Tim. 6:10; Heb. 13:5)

13. Manages his own household well
“Rules” his house with gentleness and meekness
14. Children are under control.
15. Good reputation with those outside the church.

That means being a good and honest customer.

Don't try to cheat others to save money

Be honest (Ills: haircut, wanted to give me “senior discount” I told the truth and paid full amount.)

Truthful

B. Other areas In Which The Pastor is to be an Example

1. Humility – Phil. 2:3-8
2. Contrite heart – Isaiah 66:2

III. Why is such character so important?

Phil. 2:15

1 Pet. 3:8-15

Why? Evangelistic testimony

A. It makes evangelism more effective

Also, it brings glory to God.

And glorifies Him.

B. It glorifies God

Conclusion:

1. All Christians are to live Godly lives (according to the principles that God has given us in his Word.)
2. Christians need examples
3. Pastors Are to Set the Example
4. People are supposed to watch pastors and imitate the lives and character
5. Pastors are to imitate the character of Christ Himself.

And let me close with this. Our character is the most important part of our ministry. We can be great preachers and teachers, but if we do not have godly character, our preaching and teaching will not mean anything to God or others.