

CALL to PRAYER - Pray for your pastors (virtual & local). Pray for your deacons.

Messy-ology (part 1) - Titus 1:5-11 - Church Leadership

Intro - Series on *Ecclesiology* is transitioning to *Messy-ology*. *Ecclesiology* = "study of the church." *Messy-ology* = "study of messes in the church." Churches can be messy places. Jesus takes us as we are, but He doesn't leave us as we are. God changes us in the new birth, then He places us in His church to grow us...mature us...lead us. The church is vital for Christian growth and Christ has structured His church in such a way to foster that spiritual growth. God is a God of order, not disorder. Disorderly lives & a disorderly church dishonors God. A Christian's life is to be in order & the Christian church is to be in order. The leadership of the church is tasked with fostering this *order*. *Messy-ology* in 4 parts. *Description & Corruption* of leaders... then...*Conflict & Confession* in the Church. Today we look at a *description* of church leadership.

SYNONYMOUS DESCRIPTORS

1. There are three main terms used in scripture to describe the leader in the local church
 - a. Bishop Elder Pastor (Steward)
2. BISHOP GR - *episkopos* (episcopal) overseer
 - a. Not administrative oversight but on the lookout for danger Acts 20:28-30
 - b. Not a CEO but a security officer. Checking for authenticity and duplicity
3. ELDER GR - *presbuteros* (presbyter)
 - a. An older man. A man who is mature in the faith a seasoned saint
 - b. No new converts in the clergy 1 Tim. 3:6,10 1 Tim. 5:22
4. PASTOR
 - a. This term is mainly used of Jesus Christ Shepherd - (Chief Shepherd - 1 Peter 5:4)
 - b. Tied to teaching and feeding the flock - Eph. 4:11-12 Ezek. 34:2
 - c. Pastors show love to Christ by feeding His sheep - John 21:15-17
5. Interchangeable terms for different elements of responsibility
 - a. Titus 1:5, 7 Acts 20:17, 28 1 Peter 2:25 1 Peter 5:1-2 (NKJV)
 - b. A leader in the local church must be:
 - i. On the lookout for false doctrine and false teachers (there are many)
 - ii. Mature in the faith - not a novice or gullible but discerning & disciplined.
 - iii. Feed the flock. If the sheep are unfed, then the pastor has mis-led.
 1. My job is not to entertain you but serve spiritual food to you....healthy/grow
 2. I must know good food...taste test dubious food...serve nourishing food
 - c. Steward - takes care of what belongs to another....a servant leader/feeder

SPECIAL ORDERS

- A leader in the church has special orders to set things in order
 - Titus 1:5 GR - *orthoo* orthodontics / orthopedics [pic of Ben's arm]
 - The leader in the church is to straighten out what is crooked
 - The church has a lot of brokenness...needs some good spiritual orthopedics

- The church leader needs to be *straightened out* himself
 - He must have already gone through his own orthopedics/orthodontics
 - He needs to be in order if he is to set in order - example to flock - 1 Peter 5:3
 - Titus 1 & 1 Tim. 3 give the credential/qualifications (corrections) he must have
 - Seminary training is great...but not as important as this training
 - Graduation from biblical qualifications is essential for church leadership
 - Grad from Titus 1? PhD from 1 Tim. 3?
 - “Above reproach” - Titus 1:6a,7a free from accusation
 - Can’t mean sinless.... but he is not to have a scandalous reputation
 - What is he known for? 1 Tim. 3:7
 - “Husband of one wife” Titus 1:6
 - A one-woman man. Not a ladies’ man
 - A family-man his faith & leadership should be evident at home.
 - If he can’t pastor his wife & children, then no business trying to pastor a church
 - Godly character traits - Titus 1:7-8 (5 -’s & 6 +’s) clergy must be godly
 - 5 -’s - Not arrogant, angry, a lush who loves to argue and loves money
 - 6 +’s - Serving, loving, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled
 - If he is to preach, then he must practice what he preaches
- The pastor needs to preach - Titus 1:9
 - He needs to know the Word & actually believe the Word. pass test & personally trust
 - He must encourage people in the Word
 - He must refute those who contradict the Word
- The leader must contrast truth from error and confront dangerous doctrine
 - Titus 1:10-11
- Life & Doctrine are the two legs a church leader stands on - 1 Tim. 4:16 (NIV)
 - Peg-legged pastors are wobbly leaders. Legless ones are useless ones

UNIFIED HELPERS

1. Pastors are not the only leaders in the local church
 - a. Phil. 1:1 saints = the church led by overseers & deacons
 - b. Deacons are the 2nd official office of church leadership
2. Deacon GR - *diakonos* “running through the dust” servant / minister
 - a. Government officials/police are called “*God’s deacons*” in the secular world
 - b. God has His deacons in the church - govern & take care of business of church
3. Strict requirement for deacons (deaconesses?) (1 Tim. 3:8-13)
 - a. deacons must be devout. No demon deacons
4. Servant precedent in the establishment of deacons Acts 6:1-6
 - a. Deacons were to focus on the physical wellbeing of the church
 - i. Frees up the pastors to focus on the spiritual wellbeing of the church
 - b. The 1st martyr was a deacon (preachin’ deacon) Stephen was stoned after preaching
5. Church leaders can have a blessed benefit
 - a. Reward - 1 Tim. 3:13 1 Peter 5:2-4 (plan on discussing rewards/punishments tonight)

268 “*Rise Up, O Men of God*” (read as an invitation/benediction)