

The Formation and Function of the Church

Lesson 10

IDENTIFICATION OF QUALIFIED CHURCH LEADERS

The world around us has its traditional approach to the qualifications of a leader. Business and other secular organizations are looking for the STRONG NATURAL LEADER. Leadership in the church is based upon God qualifying a person for leadership and the congregation affirming what God has already done.

The Strong Natural Leader

1. Is a visionary – they always see beyond what’s going on.
2. Is action oriented – they have to be moving at all times.
3. Is courageous – never lacks the “guts” to say what they think.
4. Is energetic – able to handle many things at once.
5. Is objective oriented rather than people oriented – view people as means of accomplishing their goals.
6. Is paternalistic – tends to be the great protector/instructor.
7. Is egocentric – sometimes admittedly, sometimes unknowingly.
8. Is tolerant of others – when they don’t measure up to expectations.
9. Is considered indispensable – at least they think they are.

The Spiritual Leader

The world’s standards are not our standards (Isaiah 55:8). Therefore, we should not ask people to be leaders in the church based upon their success in the world. They may or may not be successful natural leaders. God alone qualifies His leadership for His church. Our role is to recognize what God has already accomplished and to affirm the calling to a leadership position. God’s biblical qualifications are His safeguard because they force one to self-evaluation by His standards. This in itself should have a very sobering effect.

Elders are to be identified from among the strongest spiritual leaders in the church because their primary function is to teach the Word and rule.

The Deacons' qualifications are not just for the Deacon Board, but since the term "deacon" includes the general ministry, the qualifications should be held in view for any man or woman on any board in the church. Any women who serve should also fit the qualifications for Deaconesses.

GOD'S QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHURCH LEADERS

ELDERS

<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Qualification</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
Titus 1:5-9	Blameless	Unimpeachable integrity
	Husband of one wife	A one-wife kind of man, not a philanderer (doesn't rule out widowers or divorced men)
	Having believing children	Children are Christians, not unruly or incorrigible
	Not self-willed	Not arrogantly self-satisfied
	Not quick-tempered	Not prone to anger
	Not addicted to wine	Not overly fond of wine
	Not violent	Not quarrelsome or contentious
	Not a money-lover	Not greedy for money
	Hospitable	A stranger-lover, generous to guests
	Lover of good	Loving goodness
	Self-controlled	Sensible, self-controlled, sane, temperate
	Upright	Just, righteous, aligned with right
	Holy	Responsible in fulfilling moral obligations to God and man
Disciplined	Restrained, under control	
Holding to the Word	Calling others to wholeness through teaching God's Word	
Able to refute objections	Convincing those who speak against the truth	
Additional from 1 Timothy 3:1-7	Desires the office	A sense of calling, volunteers
	Temperate	Calm and collected spirit
	Gentle	Equitable, not insisting on own rights
	Manage own household	Good servant-leader at home
	Not a new convert	Not a new Christian, maturing faith
	Good reputation	Good representative of Christ among non believers
Additional from	Willing	Not serving against his will

1 Peter 5:1-4	As God wants Not greedy Not lording it over others An example Accountable to Chief Shepherd	By God's appointment Not money motivated Not dominating, lead not drive A pleasure to follow Motivated by the crown to be gained
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DEACONS

<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Qualifications</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
1 Timothy 3:8-13	Worthy of respect Sincere Not given to much wine Not a money-lover Hold to the faith Tested	Steady, solid individuals Serious about their tasks Not a wine-lover Not motivated by wealth With a clear conscience A proven servant's heart

DEACONESSES

<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Qualifications</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
1 Timothy 3:11	Worthy of respect Not malicious gossips Temperate Trustworthy	Steady, solid individuals Control their tongues Calm and collected spirit Faithful, loyal, protective of what is good and right

Whether one is called to serve as an elder, deacon, or deaconess, who is humanly equipped to assume these roles? Who is sufficient or adequate for these things? Our sufficiency is of God (2 Cor. 3:4-6). Let us draw upon His inexhaustible resources as we trust Him not only for the process of identifying the people but also the pattern in which they provide servant-oriented leadership.