

Sermon Notes

Pastor Jon Cooke

Title: The Defining Quality of a Spiritual Leader

Titus 1:6-9

Scripture Reading: 1 Timothy 3:1-7

- *presbuteros* and *episkopos* = Elder and Overseer
Looking at these two words we can conclude that spiritual leaders are to be men of good character and who will function as spiritual overseers in the church directing the body in the accomplishment of its God-given purposes.
- Spiritual leadership that functions in an overseeing capacity in the church has been given to men. Titus 1:6-9
- Churches need men in leadership to be faithful to the teaching of God's Word. It needs men who will make the sacrifices in life to lead and ones who are in a state of preparation for the time when they may be called on to lead.
- 1. One of the defining qualities of a spiritual leader is being above reproach or blameless. Titus 1:6-7
 - a. What does it mean to be above reproach? Paul was not stressing perfection, but rather a man who strives to maintain a good reputation. It is a man of integrity and who is honest, honorable, sincere and trustworthy.
 - b. The first area where the leader is to demonstrate being above reproach is in his marriage, if he is in fact married. The elder has to be a one-woman man. If we take this as the case then the apostle is addressing the issue of sexual purity. The elder must be faithful to the wife he has. He must be morally pure and free from sexual sin.
- Let's leave here this morning thankful for Christ Jesus our Lord who has saved us, rescued us, delivered us, freed us, and who has made us new creations that allow us, in His grace, to overcome the sins of our past.
- Let's leave here surrendering to the power of God's grace through the ministry of His Spirit in us to live lives above reproach and blameless before a world that desperately needs genuine expressions of grace-transformed living in Jesus Christ.