

Leadership: It Begins in the Home

Titus 1:6

1. The apostle Paul had left Titus on the island of Crete (fifth largest island in Mediterranean). Verse 5 explains why.
2. There were all kinds of problems in these churches - false teaching, internal division, lustful living, etc. There was much that was lacking (wanting).
3. One of the primary things that they lacked was godly leadership, thus he tells Titus in verse 5, "...and ordain elders..."
4. What was Titus to look for in a spiritual leader? Paul left nothing to chance. He lays out clearly what a godly leader looks like. vs. 6-9
 - These attributes have nothing to do with popularity or personality. They deal with the man's character - who he is. His teaching ministry isn't even mentioned until verse 9.
 - These are not rules to keep with your checklist in hand.
 - This is simply what godly, spiritually mature believers look like because they are allowing Christ to live through them. It's a natural thing, not contrived and worked up.
5. Leadership is spiritual **maturity** that others can examine and follow. **Hebrews 13:7**
 - This is why a spiritual leader was not to be a novice (new Christian). **1 Timothy 3:6** explains why. He could get lifted up with pride, which is a sign of immaturity.
6. This text simply shows us what the mature Christian life looks like.
 - It should describe **every** believer as you grow in spiritual maturity.
 - As we study this text, it reveals how much we **have** matured and how much more we **need** to mature, and areas where we need to mature.
7. So Paul says, "Titus, you need leaders in these churches, and here's what you need to look for."
 - ****Note:** Please don't get the idea these were paid professionals or CEO-types that everybody could answer to.
 - These were normal, hard-working believers that had grown spiritually to a place where they were ready to lead others and probably already were leading others.
8. What does God look for when He's looking for a leader?

A leader must have a spiritually solid home life. vs. 6

1. This deals with the leader's relationship to his family. Verse 6 mentions his wife and children. When a man has a wife and children, he has a family. This is the first place Titus was to look when looking for leaders.
 - True spiritual maturity should always be first evidenced in the home.
 - When a person gets saved, and begins to grow in his or her faith, do you know who sees it first? Those in his home.
 - By the same token, when a person puts on a big show at church, but they are playing the part of a hypocrite, guess who can tell it first? Those in his home.
 - You've probably heard jokes or stories about preachers' kids. The sad part is, many times it is true, because Dad preached one thing at church, but lived another at home. The kids were the first to see it.
 - But this doesn't just happen to preachers' kids. It also happens to deacons, Sunday School teachers, etc.

- Paul said, "Titus, as you are looking for spiritual leaders, get in their homes and observe. It will tell the story."
2. In the context of his home life, Paul said that the leader is to be "**blameless.**"
 - This doesn't mean faultless or sinless.
 - This simply means "a life above reproach." There should be nothing in that person's family that would bring reproach to the Lord or to the church.
 - Do you desire to know if a man will be a good leader at church? See if he is good leader in his own home. **1 Timothy 3:4-5** - If he can't bring his own family to spiritual maturity, how is he going to bring the saints to spiritual maturity?
 - This is the leader's job in the local church (**1 Thessalonians 2:11-12**). How does he accomplish this? Through his teaching of God's Word and his example.
 3. Paul says that the leader is to be "**the husband of one wife.**"
 - Some say this is referring to divorce. They say, if a man has ever had a previous marriage, he is forever disqualified from the leadership position of elder.
 - I used to believe this, but notice the verb "be" in this verse. It is in the present tense. This is the way he demonstrates himself to be **right now**. Example: Does "not given to wine" mean he has never had a drinking problem in his life? If a man had a drinking problem in his past, is he disqualified? Are all these qualifications retroactive for the man's entire life?
 - I believe it is simply referring to a man who **presently** exhibits faithfulness in marriage. He demonstrates himself to be faithful in his marriage right now - present tense. Paul is emphasizing marital fidelity. The man's marriage is exemplary.
 - He demonstrates it through sexual purity and by bringing his wife along with him on the path of spiritual maturity. **Ephesians 5:25-28**
 - If this verse means that he could only have been married once in his life, what about a godly man whose spouse died and he remarried? How many wives has he had? Two.
 - This simply means that he is married, faithful, and true to one woman - his wife.
 4. Paul says that a leader must have "**faithful children, not accused of riot or unruly.**"
 - "Faithful" means "loyal, dependable, and trust-worthy."
 - "Riot" speaks of self-indulgence, selfish, seeking to please themselves.
 - "Unruly" speaks of being insubordinate (they won't listen and obey authority).
1 Timothy 3:4
 - Where do kids learn to be kind, giving, and unselfish? Where do they learn to listen to authority? The home, by the example and teaching of Dad and Mom. **Ephesians 6:4**
 5. The spiritual leader knows how to mature the saints. How do you know? Look at his family, his wife and his kids. He has led them to salvation, sanctification and service. If he can do it **there**, he can probably do it up at the church with other saints.
 6. Does his family go through problems like everybody else? Absolutely. But he handles it with the grace of Christ. He responds to the problems as a spiritually mature saint of God.

In Conclusion:

1. You know what we learn here in **Titus 1:6**? Leadership begins in the home. If you can't lead there, you are not a candidate to lead the body of Christ and lead in the local church.
2. Dads - God has called you to be the spiritual leader of your home. As you grow in spiritual maturity, you should bring your wife and kids along with you.

3. You lead the way to church, to L.I.F.E. group, etc. They see you in the Word and when you learn something, you teach them. **Deuteronomy 6:6-7**
4. When problems come, they see you trust God and turn to Him in prayer. When you mess up, they see you admit it and ask forgiveness. They see the grace life demonstrated in and through you.
5. As your family sees it, others see it, and before long, you look around and say, "Wow, I'm leading some people." This is how it happens and it all begins in the home.