

A Mark of Leaders: The Peace of God Titus 1:7

Introduction:

1. In the context of the church and the Christian life, what is leadership? It has nothing to do with popularity or position.
2. Spiritual leadership is spiritual maturity that others can examine and follow.
3. Paul left Titus on the island of Crete to identify and establish leaders in the local churches. What were the marks of spiritual maturity that Titus was to look for?
 - That is what verses 5-9 are all about. Paul shows us what a mature Christian life looks like.
 - As you grow in Christ, this is what your Christian life begins to look like. It's not a list you are trying to live up to. These things come naturally as you study the Word, yield to Christ, grow in Christ, and allow Him to live through you.
4. Last week, we saw that leadership begins in the home. vs. 6
5. But this week, I want us to look further at another aspect of leadership. As we study verse 7, it is quite clear: spiritual leaders possess the peace of God. **Colossians 3:15a**
6. Paul says, "*A bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God...*" This is the basis for everything else in this verse.
 - "Blameless" means that a leader understands who God has made him in Christ and then lives that identity out in the details of every area of his life. How does he live it out? As the steward of God.
 - A steward is an overseer of someone else's house. **Luke 12:42**
 - A mature Christian has learned the principle of stewardship. Everything we **have** and everything we **are** comes from God. He is in control, He is the owner and we are simply managing **His** house.
 - When **we** are calling the shots and in control, we are inevitably going to be stressed out, self-reliant, selfish, self-centered, short-tempered, etc.
 - But when we recognize our positions as the stewards of God, it leads to the peace of God.
7. Please understand that the peace of God is not simply referring to salvation (this is peace **with God**). **Romans 5:1**
8. The peace **of God** is seen in **Philippians 4:6-7**. It doesn't mean the absence of problems. (Paul was in prison at the time.) But spiritual leaders have matured in their walk with Christ so that even in problems, they have the peace of God. **Philippians 4:11-13**
9. In **Titus 1:7**, Paul reveals some outward manifestations of this peace of God. Is your life characterized by the peace of God? Let's look at some characteristics.

Not self-willed

1. "Self-willed" speaks of people who are stubborn, overbearing, constantly insisting on their own way. This is the opposite of the stewardship mentality we talked about.
2. Guaranteed, the self-willed person hasn't grown in spiritual maturity very far.
3. When you are filled with the mind and Spirit of Jesus Christ, the first thing that leaves is that arrogant, overbearing attitude of "I want it my way" and a "life revolves around me" mentality. **Romans 15:1-3**
4. Self-willed people resist any kind of submission to authority. **2 Peter 2:10**

- Remember this: until a person has exhibited a heart to **follow**, he or she is not ready to lead. **Matthew 20:26-28**
- Self-willed people who are obnoxious and overbearing lack the peace of God in their heart. They aren't good listeners to others or to God, therefore they are not candidates for any kind of spiritual leadership.

Not soon angry

- People who are quick-tempered and always blowing their stack demonstrate the lack of peace in their heart between them and God. **Proverbs 22:24-25**
- Somebody like this stirs everybody else up and gets them going (**Proverbs 29:22**). This is not a mark of spiritual maturity. When you see it in yourself, remember, you aren't acting like a spiritual leader, but a baby
 - **Illustration:** prodigal son's brother in **Luke 15:28-29**
- A spiritually mature person has learned to be patient with others. **2 Timothy 2:24**
 - **Illustration:** when people sling mud at you, instead of slinging it back, you give it time, let it dry, and then you find you can knock it right off of you and keep going. It's the peace of God that allows this kind of response.

Not given to wine

- People use alcohol to forget all their problems, to make them chill out and relax.
- The leader has the peace of God within and doesn't have to look to any substance for a relaxed peace. He can control his spirit through Christ within him.
- It's interesting that if you study Israel in the Old Testament, their leaders were prohibited from consuming any kind of alcohol. Why is this? Because they had to always be ready and alert to make judgments. If called upon, they needed to be ready to function and lead.
- The mature believer doesn't need or require alcohol or any other chemical to help him handle or sublimate the stresses and difficulties of life. He has learned that His grace is sufficient. His rest and relaxation is in Christ, not in a bottle or in a drug.
- The leader has the ability to cope with life through Christ within. He has the peace of God.

No striker

- This simply means, when the leader is done wrong by someone else, his first reaction isn't to strike back and get in a quarrel. This is characteristic of someone who lacks that inner peace.
- The leader practices **Colossians 3:13**. When someone jabs you, instead of striking back, you send it to the cross and forgive.
 - Your attitude is, "There's a sin Christ died for, so I can forgive it."
 - You begin to react to life on the basis of truth rather than **your** thinking and emotions and feelings.
- There are people who will intentionally do things to try to get a rise out of you. The leader refuses to take a cheap jab back. The peace of God rules his heart.

Not given to filthy lucre

- What is lucre? Lucre is gain (we speak of a lucrative business deal).
- Filthy speaks of evil. So, spiritually mature people are not slaves to money, they are not in love with money, and they will not sacrifice their integrity for material gain.

3. They have learned that life is not about how much money and things they can acquire. Life has a much deeper meaning. Life is about relationships, about people, and impacting their lives by Christ living through us.
4. People who are obsessed with the latest worldly fads, consumed with the acquisition of material goods, and live to be financially prosperous, demonstrate that they lack the peace of God.
5. The peace of God in their heart frees them from the entanglement of materialism. The spiritually mature leader demonstrates **Colossians 3:1-2**. They are living for something far deeper than material possessions that come and go.

In Conclusion:

1. Are you at peace **with God**? Do you know you are saved and part of God's family?
2. If so, the next question is, "Do you possess the peace **of God**? Do you regularly demonstrate the peace of God in your daily life (at work, home, etc.)?"
3. This peace only comes as we grow and mature in our relationship with Christ.
4. Paul says, "Titus, when you are looking for leaders, look for men who demonstrate the peace of God in their daily walk."