

Leadership: Walk It Before You Talk It

Titus 1:8-9

Introduction:

1. The local church is the frontline battleground for the truth of God. It is the pillar and ground of the truth. **1 Timothy 3:15**
2. Because of this, the church must have leadership that not only knows how to **talk** the Bible, they know how to **live** the Bible.
3. Paul left Titus on the island of Crete to establish this kind of leadership in the various churches. Paul told Titus, "As you're looking for leaders, here's what you need to look for." In verses 6-9 Paul lays out what Titus needs to look for.
4. It's interesting that Paul never mentions their **knowledge** of the Word or their teaching ability until the very end. Paul's first concern was their spiritual character.
5. What good is it if someone can teach the Word eloquently, but there is not a demonstration of it in their life? You've heard the expression, "Seeing is believing."
6. Paul says, "Titus, when you're looking for spiritual leaders, they have to walk it before they talk it." Their life of integrity will make their message believable.
7. Let's look in our text and see this.

Walk it - verse 8

- How does a leader demonstrate spiritual maturity to others?

A leader is a lover of hospitality.

1. Hospitality literally means "fond of guests." Why would this be mentioned as something Titus should be looking for as he is looking for leaders?
2. Because leadership means leading **people**, and people have needs and problems that require time. The leader has learned not just to open his **home**, but open his **heart** to people. He can't be aloof and distant. He impacts lives up close and personal.
3. The leader isn't always looking to **take** and use people, but rather is looking to **give** and put other's interests ahead of his own. Hospitality is a form of giving, an act of self-sacrifice and love. It is a mark of spiritual maturity. **1 Peter 4:8-9**

A leader is a lover of good men.

1. Have you ever noticed that some people naturally gravitate to the rebellious crowd?
 - Whether it is in school, college, the ball team, church, work, etc., they find the rebels and join up with them. This is a mark of immaturity and a wicked heart.
2. A spiritual leader realizes the importance and impact of relationships and seeks to surround himself with good men (not popular or cool, but good). **Proverbs 13:20**
3. You need desperately to surround yourself with people who will edify you in your faith and help you to grow in your walk with Christ (lift you up to what you **can** be in Christ).
4. Paul says, "Titus, when you're looking for leaders, see who their friends are. See who they surround themselves with."

A leader is sober.

1. This simply means that he demonstrates clear thinking and good judgment.
 - **Illustration:** If someone is drunk and acting foolishly, what do you say? We need to sober him up. Why? So he can think clearly and rationally again.
2. A spiritual leader isn't always flying around in a tizzy, but demonstrates clear thinking - sober-mindedness. **Romans 12:3** (It comes from the renewed mind. **Romans 12:2**)
3. The mature Christian can apply the renewed mind to the details of life.

A leader is just.

1. This simply means that he is fair and evenhanded in his dealings with others.
2. The opposite would be underhanded (showing favoritism, using people for personal benefit and operating by the good buddy system).
3. He demonstrates integrity, so people, in turn, trust him.

A leader is holy.

1. This means that he is living a life that is set apart for God's purposes.
2. He is outwardly demonstrating his identity in Christ.
3. It is an inner working of Christ in him, living through him.

A leader is temperate.

1. This means that he is under control of the Holy Spirit, not worldly, fleshly appetites.
2. He is not a slave to anything, but has mastery over the details of his life.
1 Corinthians 9:27

Talk it - verse 9

1. The leader must demonstrate spiritual maturity, and in verse 9 we see the reason why it is so crucial. It is so his ministry of the Word of God will carry weight, power, and influence in the lives of others.
2. His life backs up what he is saying. His walk matches his talk. Someone may be able to quote Scripture and speak with great charisma and eloquence, but if he can't **live** it, people will not listen, and may even mock. **Romans 2:17-24**
3. But if he's walking it, he does need to be able to talk it (**1 Peter 3:15, Titus 2:7-8**). Paul told Titus to look for leaders who have a solid grip on God's Word (holding fast).
 - Paul calls it the "*faithful word.*" The word "faithful" means "trustworthy." Paul never instructs him to change or correct it. He says to hold it fast as a reliable, trustworthy Word.
 - The leader knows he can trust God's Word in everything. It's not the Bible plus man's opinion, man's ideas, philosophy, psychology, religious tradition, etc.
2 Timothy 3:16-17
4. The spiritual leader has applied himself to learning the truth of God's Word, "*as he hath been taught.*" **Hebrews 5:12-14**
 - He knows "*sound doctrine.*" He knows how to take the Word and rightly divide it according to Paul's gospel. **1 Timothy 1:10-11**
 - He knows how to communicate it to others (exhort and convince the gainsayers).
 - "Convince" means "to confute, rebuke, reprove."
 - A gainsayer is someone who is speaking against and opposing something.

5. He has a working knowledge of God's Word and can silence false teachers and protect his flock from them. verse 11

In Conclusion:

1. As we said before, leadership is simply spiritual maturity that others can see and follow.
2. What is the picture we see in the verses we have studied? The spiritual leader has a grip on God's Word and it has a grip on him.
3. He is totally committed to God's Word and it shows in the way he lives life.
4. He has the ability to communicate the Word and the integrity to make it believable.
5. I believe God is building people like this at Crossroads, but whether you are ever in leadership or not, this is a reflection of Christian maturity.