

What to Look For

God's Man / God's Woman / God's Servants – Lesson 2

1

The Challenge of Finding God's Man

- The Pastoral Search Committee is basically asking, "Where's Kitty?"
- But God has provided a "spotter's guide" to help us clearly identify such a man.
- This spotter's guide works for both pastors and elders. (Interchangeable)

2

Overview

- There are two companion passages that provide a complete spotter's guide.
- 1 Timothy 3:1-7 was read.
- 1 Timothy identifies 16 characteristics.
- The other passage is Titus 1:5-9.

3

Overview – Here's Titus 1 Description

- 1 Titus 1:5–9 – *For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.*

4

Overview

- 1 *For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,*

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Overview

- 1 *holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.*
 - These two passages tell us exactly what God is looking for in elders and pastors.

6

Overview

- 26 total characteristics in 2 passages
- 5 identical qualities, 11 are unique to 1 Timothy; 10 are unique to Titus.
- Some terms are conceptually linked.
- They orbit around 7 key questions.

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2 Overview – Seven Key Questions

1. Summary: What's the bottom line?
2. Who is he on the home front?
3. Where is his heart?
4. How does he relate to others?

8

2 Overview – Seven Key Questions

5. How does he personally engage with and minister God's Word?
6. Toward what ends has he applied himself since coming to Christ?
7. How do unbelievers view him?

9

2 Overview – Seven Key Questions

- You have a handout that gives you a simple and practical definition for each of these 26 qualities.
- They are organized into 7 categories that answer to all 7 questions.
- Here is a summary of all 7.

10

Overview

1. Summary: What's the bottom line?
 - Above Reproach – In general, such a man presents a positive and attractive example of what it means to be a servant of Jesus.

11

Overview

2. Who is he on the home front?
 - Exemplary Husband and Father – This man displays surpassing devotion to his wife and effectively coaches his family to follow the Lord.

12

Overview

3. Where is his heart?

- Good Heart – He loves the Lord (and whatever God loves) with all his heart, mind, and strength.

13

Overview

4. How does he relate to others?

- Relational Asset – He winsomely cares for and helps others do what is right, regardless of personal cost, without power-struggles, self-promotion, and angry outbursts.

14

Overview

5. How does he engage with and minister God's Word?

- Growth Agent – His deep personal devotion to God's Word empowers him to promote the truth-driven transformation of others.

15

Overview

6. Has he made the most of his time since coming to Christ?

- Seasoned – This man has spent considerable time growing in humility and maturity.

16

Overview

7. How do unbelievers view him?

- Respected – He lives out his allegiance to Jesus in the public square both by his example and witness.

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3 Key Clarifications

3 1. **“Above reproach” comes from two different words.**

- ἀνεπίλημπτος (1 Tim) = no criticism sticks.
- ἀνέγκλητος (Titus) = well spoken of by all.
- Vices don't describe / virtues do.

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Key Clarifications

4 2. **Titus 1:7 says “above reproach” as God's Steward.**

- In the final analysis, God's is the only opinion that matters.
- Look for a man who is these things in God's eyes.

19

Key Clarifications

5 3. **“One-woman-man” denotes a man of singular devotion to his wife.**

- This may not have been true in his past.
- But it is no stretch to describe who he has become in Christ as a man of exemplary devotion to his wife.

20

Key Clarifications

- Ephesians 5:25–26 – *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.*
- Such a man illustrates how Jesus loves us!

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Key Clarifications

6 4. “Having children who believe” involves children irrespective of age.

- Τέκνον (offspring) is used, not παιδίαν (young children).
- Home management is a window into flock care (1 Timothy 3:5).

22

Key Clarifications

- What about a prodigal?
- Outlier possible but trend is believing children whose lifestyle (moral restraint and responsive to authority) affirms faith.
- This is a tough one – but this is what Jesus wants for His church!

23

Key Clarifications

- This quality is needed because of the challenge: “For there are many **rebellious** men...” (same word!)
- Rebel raisers (on the home-front) are not well suited to the challenge of rebel silencing on the church front!

24

Key Clarifications

7 5. Seven (of 26) qualities speak to where a man's heart is.

- This is harder to discern but words and deeds are a window.
- Do you hear and see a man who loves doing and thinking what pleases God?

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Key Clarifications

- This love for "good" is what motivates him to pursue becoming an elder – "it is a fine work (καλός) he desires to do."
- Kind of like Bill McKee: "Are you doing what only a child of God can do?"

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Key Clarifications

- Devout and loves what is good = his heart is drawn to what has true value in the eyes of God.
- Temperate and sensible = he sees and thinks clearly about what will please God and promote what is truly good.

27

Key Clarifications

- As a self-controlled man, he brings what he says and does into alignment with his heart and his thinking.
- In short, he loves the Lord and loves what God would call "good" with all his heart, mind, and will.

28

Key Clarifications

8 6. **Eight (of 26) qualities speak to how he impacts others.**

- Respectable, hospitable, gentle, peaceable and just are positives / must haves.
- Pugnacious, self-willed, quick tempered are negatives / toxic.

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Key Clarifications

- This is the kind of man you would seek out for relational help and guidance.
- He will improve relationships.
- Pugnacious, self-willed, quick tempered make things worse.

30

Key Clarifications

9 7. **“Holding fast the word” is about supreme devotion (Titus 1:9).**

- This devotion fuels both healthy exhortation and refutation.
- Such a man goes to the Bible as his first resort no matter what he faces.

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Key Clarifications

- It is possible for a man to be this without being a dynamic public speaker.
- But regardless of the size of the group to which he speaks, **when he speaks** you hear what God says on the matter.
- We desperately need truth brokers today!

32

Key Clarifications

10 8. "Not a new convert" involves spiritual age but also spiritual grounding.

- Early recognition can fuel pride.
- Find someone who has grown in ways that demonstrate acquired humility.

33

Key Clarifications

11 9. Reputation with outsiders is about someone's "testimony."

- Testimony is μαρτυρία.
- Outsiders = non-believers.
- So how do you get a good "testimony" from non-believers?

34

Key Clarifications

- Method #1 – noble conduct

12 1 Thessalonians 4:10–12 – *Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you, so that you will behave properly toward **outsiders** and not be in any need.*

35

Key Clarifications

- Method #2 – unflinching devotion.

13 Revelation 6:9 – *When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the **testimony** which they had maintained.*

36

Key Clarifications

- Regardless of what world a man lives in, his public testimony should confirm his true identity.

37

Key Clarifications

14 **10. An elder is someone you would seek out for godly counsel.**

- There is no specific age associated with "elder."
- But the presence of these 26 qualities is explicitly required.

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Summary – Look for this!

(1) Above reproach, (2) exemplary husband and father, (3) heart for God that shows in his words and deeds, (4) someone who makes it easy for others to get along, (5) a man whose devotion to the word informs everything he says, (6) seasoned and humble.

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Summary – Look for this!

(7) Someone who is the real deal even among those who don't know Jesus.

- This is what God says we should be looking for in Pastor Next.
- This is what God says we should use to identify elders.

40

Application – How relate to me?

- Check: How could any man not come up short when evaluated by such a daunting list?
- The very existence of this list says it is possible!
- But not on your own.

41

Application – How relate to me?

- First, admit your inability and ask Jesus for His help to save you and change you.
- Then tap into the four resources: Circumstances, God's Word, Prayer, and Encouragement.

42

Application – How relate to me?

- Identify one of these 26 you think Jesus would say "needs improvement."
- Then start collecting key verses.
- Go to someone who is an example and ask for their verses and insights.
- Pray for God's Spirit to work on you!

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Application – How relate to me?

- Try to discern how circumstances connect to your growth target.
- Praise Him for progress!
- Band together with others for accelerated progress!

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