



## Church Leadership

By Ken Terry on August 29, 2022

### TODAY'S READING: Titus 1

In Paul's letter to Titus, Paul succinctly describes the role he and Titus play in the kingdom objectives--to build up the faith and knowledge of God's people and then lead them in godliness, *"Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness"* (Titus 1:1 ).

This weighty kingdom goal would only be accomplished if they identified qualified leaders to help the churches conduct themselves properly, reflecting the values and behaviors of their heavenly Father. Subsequently, helping them conform to the kingdom rule of Jesus Christ, His guidelines that govern His Church. My friends, this is a huge responsibility indeed, leading God's people, and should not be taken lightly. Paul goes on in the letter to describe the characteristics expected of such an individual.

*"For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict"* (Titus 1:7-9 NKJV ).

Even though these are the expectations of elders in the Church; every follower of Christ must have this same level of consciousness as they engage in the world around them. You see, we are all stewards of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our character and behaviors should align with the fruit of the Spirit that indwells every follower. Therefore, when you read the qualifications please know and understand those characteristics reflect the Master in you.

Just to clarify the characteristics, lets visit Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV. *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."* His fruit in us will enable us to ascertain the spiritual things from error. This ability is very significant as leaders lead people in godliness. You see, there are dark forces out there trying to distract and draw God's people away from Him. *"For there are many insubordinates, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain"* (Titus 1:10-11 NKJV).

Such individuals are among us today. As the Church of Jesus Christ, we must all focus in one accord. We must all live out our divine appointments by building up the faith and knowledge in God's people. That is the goal of church leadership and the objectives of each of the elect of God, His people. If our character does not align with His teaching, we are no better than the

lost. *“They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work”* (Titus 1:16 ).

**PRAYER:** Our Father in the heavens, we come to you in thanksgiving for the privilege and honor of glorifying You as we serve and follow Jesus Christ our Lord. Father, please continue to work in and through us, making us more like Jesus. Help us, Father, to help our church leaders bridge the gap that manifests itself as people seemingly wander and fall away from the faith. Help us be those intercessors who reflect Christ’s love and care to bring them back into the fold. We need your Holy Spirit engaging in us in this effort. Father, we ask all these things in the holy name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, amen.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Titus 2

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