

Discussion Questions for Sunday, March 22, 2015

1. Discuss the three vices to avoid/shun and the three virtues to aspire to/seek.
2. Explore how Peter's exhortation to elders regarding their calling and character matches up with 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
3. Why is it so crucial that an elder should WANT to serve, LOVE to serve, and actively CARE for people?
4. Interact with this statement: God's calling in your life to leadership and the subsequent character He builds into you, will show as you immerse in praying, preaching, and peopling.
5. Discuss how what leaders are called to is really what every Christian should aspire to: to have the attitude of Jesus Christ. Philippians 2:4 "do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others." Everyone should aspire to the good things in these verses. This is how everyone should treat everyone!
6. Why is it that we love the idea of our leaders being accountable to one another as well as to the flock but sometimes we do not insist on that same level of relational connectedness and honest scrutiny in our own lives? How can we practically counteract that propensity?
7. Who holds you accountable to stay on the straight and narrow path of following Jesus? Who isn't afraid to ask you the tough questions? Who do you see on a regular basis face-to-face that knows you well and you are interdependently connected with?
8. Faithful elders come out of the fertile soil of a fellowship of believers that is fixated on Jesus and the Gospel. How have you seen this to be true? How familiar are you with your church's process of developing future leaders and present elders?
9. True elders know their weakness and lean on Christ's strength. They are honest about their struggles as all Christians should be. How are you comforted by that truth? Have you ever had unrealistic expectations or idealized views of elders? If so, how did you come to a healthier understanding? How does it help the flock when elders are not claiming perfection or super-maturity but are humbly and dependently looking to the only Perfect Shepherd and trusting His shed blood?
10. Pray for your shepherds. Remember that Jesus is the Author and Perfector of our faith and the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls, which means that He is our Chief Pastor and Elder. His chosen under-shepherds, while imperfect, keep watch over our souls.