

Leadership that Influences a Culture

How Local Churches Should Be Governed – Titus 1:5b-9

Introduction: Local church leadership that influences culture consists of elders who are able to defend sound doctrine and create a healing environment where godliness can flourish.

1. *HISTORY* – Local church government has always been somewhat controversial. *Titus 1:5b*

- A. Paul's charge – Appoint elders (v. 5b) who oversee (v. 7a) as God's steward (v 7b).
- B. Historical response – Four forms of church government emerged over the past 2,000 years.
 - 1. Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Congregational and non-denominational elder-driven.
 - 2. Each form has strengths and weaknesses.
 - 3. The biblical model is non-denominational elder-driven, contextualized to the culture.
- C. How Grace Community Church is governed.
 - 1. What we did when we first planted the church – Interviewed leaders to sense calling.
 - 2. How it looked for the first ten years – Elders oversaw various ministry areas.
 - 3. How it looks now – We use the policy-governance model with an XP.
 - 4. How GCC elders see our role in city – We are a conduit of God's kingdom work.
- D. My assessment of our elder board today.

2. *CULTURE* – Local church government should create a culture inside that offers healing to people outside. *Titus 1:5c*

- A. Background – Paul's ministry with Titus begins a process.
 - 1. After Paul leaves prison in Acts 27, he and Titus head to Crete.
 - 2. Homer tells us Crete has 100 cities. There was intercity competition.
 - 3. Then Paul leaves, and Titus has specific instructions. *Set in order...*
- B. Command – Paul's command suggests a healing influence. Notice the word set in order.
 - 1. The root is orthosis, meaning to straighten. Think orthodontist and orthopedist.
 - 2. The two prepositions in front – eip and dio – mean to thoroughly straighten out.
 - 3. This implies that Titus creates a structure that promotes spiritual healing. Eph. 4:11
- C. Method – Paul's approach consists of appointing elders. 1:5b
 - 1. Notice there is to be a plurality of elders.
 - 2. Notice there are to be elders over every city.
 - 3. Notice that this is a matter of obedience and urgency. *“As I directed you.”*

3. *CHARACTER* – Local church government is founded on personal character and integrity. *Titus 1:6-7*

- A. The overall quality – above reproach (repeated 2 times [v. 6 and v. 7]).
 - 1. Does this mean perfection or progression? Remember some were brand new Christians.
 - 2. Remember who was not “above reproach”: Jesus (Lk. 7:34) & Peter (Gal. 2:11).
 - 3. A.R. refers to personal maturity in the framework of OT morality.
- B. There are three sets of qualities.
 - 1. First set – Elders are above reproach with respect to their families. 1:6
 - 2. Second set – Elders are above reproach in personal habits, both positive & negative. 1:7-8
 - 3. Third set – Elders hold fast to the Word, as truth, and use it effectively in ministry. 1:9
- C. Notice the qualities that are not listed here.
 - 1. He doesn't include...spiritual gifts, personal charisma, ability to give money, or wisdom.

2. He addresses those issues that allow elders to discern God's direction.
3. Why is this so important? The biblical model for leadership is sheep.

Spiritual Leadership Assessment

Based on the Qualifications for Elders – 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9

Above Reproach

How do you rate your reputation as a Christian both among fellow believers as well as among non-Christians?

Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied

The Husband of One Wife (one-woman-man or one-man-woman)

How do you evaluate your relationship with your spouse?

Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied

Temperate

How do you evaluate the degree to which you are maintaining balance in your Christian experience?

Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied

Prudent

How do you evaluate your ability to be wise and discerning?

Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied

Respectable

How satisfied are you with the way your life reflects Jesus Christ?

Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied

Hospitable

How do you evaluate your level of generosity with your home?

Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied

Able to Teach

How do you evaluate your ability to communicate with others who may disagree with you?

Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied

Not Addicted to Wine

To what degree are you satisfied with your ability to control various kinds of obsessions and compulsions?

Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied

Not Self-Willed

How satisfied are you with your ability to relate to other people without being self-centered and controlling?

Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied

Not Quick Tempered

How satisfied are you with the way you handle anger?

Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied

Not Pugnacious

How satisfied are you with your ability to control any form of physical or verbal abuse?

Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied

Gentle

How objective and fair-minded are you in your relationships with others?

Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied

Uncontentious

How satisfied are you with your ability to avoid arguments?

Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied

Free from the Love of Money

How satisfied are you with your ability to be non-materialistic?

Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied

One Who Manages His Own Household Well

If you are a father, how satisfied are you with your ability to function within your family according to God's plan?

Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied

Loving What is Good

To what degree are you satisfied with your efforts at "overcoming evil with good"?

Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied

Just ["Upright"]

How satisfied are you with your ability to be just and fair in his relationships with others?

Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied

Devout ["Holy"]

To what degree are you satisfied with the way your life reflects God's holiness?

Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied

Disciplined

How satisfied are you with your ability to live a disciplined Christian life?

Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied

Overall Spiritual Maturity

How do you evaluate your overall maturity as a Christian?

Dissatisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Satisfied