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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**1 Timothy 5:17-22**  
Lesson #16  
Elders Indeed  
08/06/2023

1

**In some churches there is an assumption that**

**the ministers minister and the congregation congregates to consume and complain, while they act holy, look busy, and stay happy, as they show up, shut up, and cough up.**



But what should we really expect?

2

Expectations of shepherds & sheep?

*Hebrews 13:17*

“Obey your leaders, and **submit to them**; for they keep **watch over your souls**, as those who will **give an account**. Let them do this with joy and not with grief (inward groaning), for this would be **unprofitable for you.**”

<b>It is in the shepherd's best interest to <b>care for the sheep.</b></b>	<b>It is in the sheep's best interest to <b>submit to the shepherds.</b></b>
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3

Expectations of shepherds & sheep?

*Ephesians 4*

“11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the **equipping of the saints** for the **work of service**, to the **building up of the body of Christ;**”

<b>The shepherds are to <b>equip the sheep for ministry.</b></b>	<b>The sheep are to <b>do the work of building the church.</b></b>
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4

*James 3:1*


“Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we **will incur a stricter judgment.**”

**Leaders will incur a stricter judgment from**

- **their chief shepherd.**
- **and their followers.**

**Leaders can be put on an **unrealistic pedestal that leads to confusing charisma with character** by both leaders and followers.**

<b>The <b>Corinthian</b> church had charisma without character (gifts without fruit).</b>	<b>Paul was not a gifted speaker (2 Cor.10:10) but his message and life were powerful.</b>
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5


**The WAY of the Cross is a style of life that **involves self sacrifice in serving others.****

*Mark 10:45*

“For even the Son of Man **did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life** a ransom for many.”

*Romans 12:1*

“I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”



**The sign of a servant is in how he or she **responds when treated like one.****

6

1 Timothy 5

“17 Let the elders who rule (**manage**) well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. 18 For the Scripture says, “*You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing,*” and “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”

1. Pastoral leaders are to earn and receive **respect from those they lead.**
- Without integrity, they will **lose their authority to lead.**
- The ox has 1) a harness (keeping it in line) and 2) **no muzzle to keep it from feed as it works.**

7

1 Timothy 5

“19 Do not receive an **accusation** against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses.”

2. Pastoral leaders in the church should be **protected from false accusations.**
- **Leaders are vulnerable** in that they are easy targets for misunderstanding and abusive treatment.
- **Unsubstantiated / unverified** accusations against them should not be received.
- **Spiritual leaders need** protection from others (caretakers) and from themselves (critics).

8

1 Timothy 5

“20 Those who **continue in sin**, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also may be fearful of sinning.”

3. Pastoral leaders in the church must be **held accountable for behavior that is inappropriate, unacknowledged and uncorrected.**
- **Leaders will often fall short**, and when they do, they have an opportunity to model how to respond to falling short.
- **Leaders may need to be protected from themselves** in not be allowed to persist in modeling a bad response to bad behavior.

9

Some expected but often overlooked bad behaviors of spiritual leaders.

1 Peter 5:2

“shepherd the flock of God **among you**, exercising **oversight** not under **compulsion**, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for **sordid gain**, but with eagerness; nor yet as **lording it over** those allotted to your charge, but proving to be **examples** to the flock.”

disengaged  
irresponsible  
unwilling  
selfish  
abusive  
hypocritical

10

1 Timothy 5

“21 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles **without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality.**”

4. Shepherds should be given **fair, impartial, treatment** when correction is needed.

**A healthy community and its leaders should model.**

Truth & Transparency  
Trust & Trustworthiness  
Tolerance & Thankfulness  
Tenderness & Toughness

11

1 Timothy 5

“22 Do not lay hands upon anyone **too hastily** and thus share responsibility for the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin.”

5. Pastoral leaders should not be put in positions **where they are misplaced or unprepared.**

Godly character is not a gift of the Spirit but a fruit of the Spirit developed over time.

Spiritual leaders are identified by:

1. **Character** - more than giftedness
2. **Wisdom** - more than wealth
3. **Example** - more than knowledge

12

As wise leaders “**come to Jesus**” they:

- **Demand loyalty** to Christ, not themselves.
- **Seek staff** that have freedom and courage to critique as well as protect.
- **Grow antenna not horns** in modeling how to respond to criticisms.
- **Manage fear** as they value integrity over image and humility over hype.
- **Put their best foot forward** without losing their balance or kicking their neighbor.
- **Major on majors** and minor on minors.
- **Unite the church**, not divide it.

13

**Both Shepherds and Sheep  
must not overrate their status and role.**

*Romans 12:3*

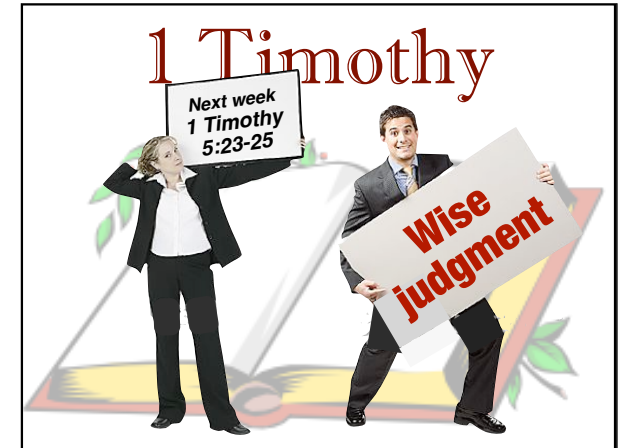
“For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you **not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think**; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”

Shepherds are not to confuse **charisma** with **character**.

Sheep are not to confuse **democracy** with **discipleship**.

Both are to walk in the **WAY of the CROSS** as they take their **BAPTISM SERIOUSLY**.

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