



leadership manual

1 Timothy



Sermon Series Notes

“Church Leadership” (I Timothy 3)

Danny Hodges – NT3505

v.1 Elders are men who are examples to the church (I Peter 5:3b). They also help to shepherd the flock (I Peter 5:2a). Some elders are paid by the church, and some have regular jobs.

vv.2-7 Above reproach...the **husband** of one wife suggests that elders are to be men (last week’s message), temperate...self-controlled...respectable...hospitable...able to teach...not given to drunkenness...not violent but gentle...not quarrelsome...not a lover of money, otherwise they become materialistic, and they also may end doing ministry for money (see I Peter 5:2b)...good family manager; note: Doesn’t mean once his children are “of age,” that they may not rebel. They may even rebel while still under his authority, but that rebellion will not be tolerated...not a recent convert, lest pride become his downfall...

* We must not look at this list of characteristics in a legalistic manner. If we do, no one would qualify as a leader.

vv.8-10 Deacons are servants...Acts 6.

v.11 Some suggest this refers to deacon’s wives, others say it refers to women deacons. Certainly there are women deacons in the church (Rom.16:1)...

v.13 Spiritual growth and maturity come through faithful service

v.16 Some manuscripts translate this opening with “God appeared in a body.” What an amazing mystery! The God of all creation has become a creature – incredible! He was vindicated by the Spirit, not by man. The Holy Spirit testified to who He is; He was seen by angels (See I Peter 1:10-12); He was preached among the nations, believed on in the world. Revelation tells us that as a result of the gospel going out to the whole world, people will be saved from every tribe, language, people, and nation (Rev. 14:6; 5:9; 7:9); He was taken up in glory (Acts 1:7-11).

The mystery of godliness is great. This statement refers not only to Christ, but in the context, to us. Christ lives in my body. Peter says we who know Christ are partakers of the divine nature (II

Peter 1:4). I am vindicated, not by man, but by the Spirit of God that lives in me (I Cor.2:15-16). Hebrews says we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, and some of those are the angelic hosts, marveling at the work God is doing through the likes of us. We have been given the awesome privilege and responsibility of taking the gospel to the world. And when our work here has been completed, we will be taken up in glory!

This section is about church leadership. Elders are to watch over and care for the flock. Some elders have a primary responsibility of preaching and teaching (I Timothy 5:17). Deacons and deaconesses serve in practical ways that free the elders to pray, study the Word of God, and shepherd the flock. With that said, there is another purpose for godly leaders in the church (see I Peter 5:3b). Leaders are to be examples. Why? See Heb.13:7. God wants leaders not only to serve in their particular callings and giftings, but to also be examples that others may follow.

Do you know what kind of people God calls to become these kinds of examples? See I Cor.1:26-31.

Note: There are lots of candidates in this room!

The apostles were unschooled, ordinary men, and yet they became the pillars upon which the ministry of Jesus Christ was placed. They were leaders who were far from perfect, but who over time grew and matured, becoming men of God that others could follow. James and John had terrible tempers, so Jesus called them “the sons of thunder.” They wanted to call down fire from heaven on the Samaritans who didn’t treat Jesus so good; Matthew was so greedy he turned traitor and became a tax collector for the Roman government; Simon the zealot was a revolutionary who advocated the overthrow of the Roman government even if it meant doing so through ungodly means; Peter, what an impulsive, proud, cocky guy...And the one dictating this letter to Timothy was once a Pharisee who hated Christ and Christians. He says in Timothy 1:13 that he was blasphemous, persecutor and a violent man. That would make him unfit to be the kind of leader described here in chapter three. But after choosing Saul of Tarsus, God changed the character of Saul of Tarsus.

... Right after the flood, Noah got drunk; Abraham lied about his wife (twice), listened to his wife’s bad idea regarding Hagar, the handmaid he acquired while down in Egypt against God’s will; Jacob was a deceiver and manipulator; Moses murdered the Egyptian who was mistreating a Hebrew slave; David committed adultery, then murder.

God is looking for leaders. And he plants within His children a desire to be a leader. Leaders must be developed. And between desire and development, there are trials, difficulties, disappointments, discipline. Some survive, and some are cast aside...

I want to present to you five great biblical leaders that God developed over time:

1. Impatient Abraham

- See Gen.15:1-6; 16:1-3; 17:1-4, 15-17

- Time was Abraham's test; patience/faith was his lesson in development. Abraham ended up moving without the Lord's leading (see Gen.12:10-13ff). He makes the same mistake in Gen.20, and each time gets in trouble for it. But the worst move he made without the Lord's leading is recorded in Gen.16:1-4ff.

- There are lots of examples of people making moves in life without the Lord's leading (see Numbers 14:39-45; Deut.1; Joshua 9). Cloud leading Israel through the wilderness, they had to learn to wait on the Lord's leading. Before a person can become a godly leader, they must learn to be a faithful follower. Maybe that is what God is seeking to develop in your life. Don't get ahead of God. Don't make that foolish, fleshly mistake. In ministry here at CCSP, I have tried to not make a move apart from the leading of the Lord. I can't say I've always made the right decision, but I have certainly tried to.

2. Moses the "macho"

- See Ex.2:11-17; Acts 7:20-25

- Moses was accustomed to pushing his weight around, to speaking and people responding. And when God placed within him a call/desire to be a deliverer on behalf of his own, the Israelites, he just responded in a way that came natural to him. What he would have to learn is to respond in a way that was not natural, allowing for God to do something supernatural. Unfortunately for Moses it took 40 years for God to develop the kind of humility in his life that allowed God's power be manifest in and through his life.

- I believe there are many people who God is waiting to use mightily, but they lack humility.

- Zech.4:6 "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.

- People who have not allowed humility to be developed in their lives have a tendency to make things happen, both in ministry and in life. For example, husbands who are not humble before the Lord try to make their wives submit by exercising their authority – they are "powerful in speech and action." Wives who are not humble may do the same thing, badgering and nagging their husbands in an attempt to "deliver them" from the bondage

and oppression of the enemy. In ministry, I have seen pastors and Christian leaders attempting to make things happen through means that if examined spiritually and biblically would be found to be nothing but fleshly in nature.

- Let me share with you very honestly. I do not know how to build a church. And what you see happening here at CCSP is 100% the hand and power of God. I already mentioned that we try and not make a move in ministry without the leading of the Lord. With that said, we also never try and make something happen, even in areas we feel the Lord's leading. For example, our Men of Arms ministry (story)...Calvary House Ministry (Franks frustration)...Prison Ministry; See John 3:22-30; If you build it, you will have to maintain it!

- We need to be led by the Lord, then we need to wait for the power of God to do what we could never do through our own power.

3. Peter the "proud"

- Liked to be first; brawny but shy of a full deck; A cocky kind of a guy; After revelation and confession "Thou art the Christ," took Jesus aside for personal counseling regarding the cross; At the Last Supper, arrogantly proclaimed that if all the other apostles forsook Jesus, he never would...the cock crowing on crucifixion morning dealt a stinging blow to Peter's cockiness...even while waiting for Jesus in Galilee, he went fishing! (Do you love me more than these?). And while walking on the beach with Jesus in John 21, he was concerned with what suffering John would face as a disciple (What is that to you? You follow me!). Peter thought he knew more than others, even more than Jesus. And he thought he deserved better than others. What pride!

- Pride was a great problem with Peter; submission was something that needed to be developed in his life.

4. Timothy the "timid"

- II Tim.1:4-7

- I Tim.4: 12 Don't let anyone look down on you because to in faith and in purity...14 Do not neglect your gift...

- I Tim.5: 23 Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.

- I Cor.16: 10 If Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is carrying on the work of the Lord, just as I am. 11 No one, then, should refuse to accept him.

- Fear/shame was the test; boldness/perseverance were the things to be developed.

CONCLUSION

* The mystery of godliness is indeed great. Without Him, we can do NOTHING! Whatever we are for God, we are because of God...If Jesus Christ lives in you, He is working to develop you into a godly leader. And all of us have different areas that need to be developed. What is it in your life that is preventing you from maturing as a Christian? What's keeping you from becoming an example, a leader that others can follow?