

Leadership

Doug Hamilton

A famous historian once noted, “You can tell a lot about a society by whom they promote as their heroes.” There is a great amount of truth to this logic. If a society reveres well-educated, defenders of freedom, like the American Fore-fathers, it speaks well of the nation. If society glorifies heroes who are really not, then what does it say about the hearts and minds of that people?

What would make a society to revere men like Adolph Hitler, Che Guevara and Louis Farrakhan instead of George Washington, Christopher Columbus and Benjamin Franklin? There is quite a contrast to these two lists of men. Both groups have been put forth as heroes, but they share nothing else in common.

This is because the standards in the hearts of the people have changed. We have turned away from our core principles as a nation. As a result, unprincipled men hold up other more unprincipled men as their heroes.

I say this in preparation of our lesson on elders this morning. Even though society has radically changed throughout the world over the centuries, God wants us to have principled men leading His principled church. No matter how much society or the world has changed, God wants to make sure we use His standards when choosing our heroes.

I) Defining the Terms of the Elder

A. The Three Definitions

1. Presbuteros: an elder, one with age
 - Acts 14:23
 - 1 Tim 5:1
 - 1 Timothy 5:17
 - 1 Peter 5:1

2. Episkopos: bishop, overseer
 - Acts 20:28
 - Philippians
 - Titus 1:7
 - 1 Peter 2:25

3. Poimen: pastor, shepherd
 - Matthew 9:36

Leadership

Doug Hamilton

- John 10:11
- Hebrews 13:20
- Ephesians 4:11

B. They are one and the same

1. Elder and Overseer

- Titus 1:5-7

2. Pastor, Elder, and Overseer

- Acts 20:17-28
- 1 Peter 5:1-2

3. Poimen and Overseer

- 1 Peter 2:25

C) Their Number

1. New Testament Examples

- Acts 11:30 “elders” = plural
- Acts 14: “they had appointed elders” = plural
- Acts 15:22, “and the elders” = plural
- Acts 20:17, “the elders of the church.” = plural
- Philippians 1:1, “ including the overseers” = plural
- Titus 1:5, “appoint elders” = plural
- 1 Peter 5:1, “the elders among you” = plural

2. Plurality not Singularity

- All the known examples in the New Testament referring to elders find them in the plural form. The churches at Ephesus, Jerusalem, Pisidia, Philippi, Crete, Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia all had plural “elders”.
- The obvious reason for this would be to keep preeminent power out of the hands of one man. This is an anti-Christian attitude (*3 John 9, I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say*).

3. The Prophesied Apostasy

- Acts 20:29, “I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock...”

Leadership

Doug Hamilton

- II Thessalonians 2:3, “the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction...”

II) Defining the Job

A) Teaching the Flock

- Acts 20:28
- 1 Timothy 5:17
- Titus 1:9
- Acts 15:6

B) Tending the Flock

- 1 Peter 5:1-3

What they are to do

- “shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight”

How they are to carry it out

- “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.”

C) They are to labor among the flock

1Thessalonians 5:12\

Jesus is their model

- John 10:9
- John 10:11
- John 10:14
- John 21:15-17
- 1 Peter 2:25

C) Other Affairs of the Flock

1) Money

- Acts 11:29-30

2) Leadership

Leadership

Doug Hamilton

- Hebrews 13:7
- Hebrews 13:17

3) Prayer and Study

- Acts 6:2-4
- 1 Timothy 5:17

4) Visiting the Sick

- James 5:14

5) Solving issues of doctrine

- Acts 15:2

III) Defining the Qualities (from NAS)

1 Timothy 3:1-7, It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires {to do.} ² An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money. ⁴ {He must be} one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity ⁵ (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?); ⁶ {and} not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. ⁷ And he must have a good reputation with those outside {the church,} so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Titus 1:5-9 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, ⁶ {namely,} if any man be above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. ⁷ For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, ⁸ but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, ⁹ holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

1 Tim 3:1-7

- 1) must be above reproach
- 2) the husband of one wife

Titus 1:5-9

- same
- same

Leadership

Doug Hamilton

3) temperate	*	
4) prudent		sensible
5) respectable	*	
6) hospitable		same
7) able to teach	*	
8) not addicted to wine		same
9) not pugnacious		same
10) gentle	*	
11) uncontentious	*	
12) free from the love of money		same
13) one who manages his own household well		same
14) not a new convert	*	
15) a good reputation with those outside the church	*	
16)	*	not self-willed
17)	*	not quick-tempered
18)	*	loving what is good
19)	*	just
20)	*	self-controlled
21)	*	devout

These are qualities, not qualifications. The items on the list are all components of a proving ground of maturity, the primary ingredient of leadership for the immature.

Aspires to the Office

- if any man aspires to the office of overseer NAS, NASU
- if anyone sets his heart on being an overseer NIV
- if a man desires the position of a bishop NKJV
- if a man desires the office of a bishop KJV
- if a man seeketh the office of a bishop ASV
- if a man is eager to be a church leader TEV
- if a man wants to be a pastor The Living Bible
- if a man aspires to be an overseer McCord

1. above reproach = be a good man whose life cannot be spoken against.

Leadership

Doug Hamilton

2. husband of one wife = a one woman man
3. Temperate = to be clear-headed
4. Prudent = sober-minded
5. Respectable = well-behaved
6. Hospitable = welcoming to home
7. Able to Teach = a good teacher of God's word.
8. Not addicted to wine = not given to drunkenness
9. Not Pugnacious = not quarrelsome
10. Gentle = patient
11. Uncontentious = not a brawler, peaceable
12. Free from the love of Money = not a lover of money
13. Manages his own household well = presiding well over his home.

Special note: Titus further adds: having children who believe: (NAS)

Additional Note: Question: How many children does "*having children*" refer to?

- Sarah had no children; then she had Isaac. (Genesis 16:1)
- Rachel had no children; then she had Joseph. (Genesis 30:1)
- Manoah's wife had no children; then she had Sampson. (Judges 13:2-3)
- Hannah had no children; then she had Samuel (1 Samuel 1:2) Elizabeth had no children; then she had John the Baptist. (Luke 1:7)

14. Not a new convert = not an inexperienced Christian
15. Good reputation outside the church = respected by outsiders
16. Not self-willed = arrogant

Leadership

Doug Hamilton

17. Not quick tempered = not a hot-head

18. Loving what is good = in love with that which is good.

19. Just = doer of right

20. Devout : holy

21. Self-controlled = in control of oneself

SUMMARY

What is the reason for this quality to be mentioned concerning leadership?

A PROVEN TRACK RECORD!