

## Has the Church Lost Its Purpose?

### “The Purpose of the Church Can be Seen in the Qualifications of its Leaders”

1 Timothy 3:1-13

*God Commands Me in His Word – Love Him with All my Heart, My Soul, My Mind - and to Love One Another as Myself*

**Introduction:** I checked and this sub title breaks the record for the longest sub title for a sermon!

- A. Verse 1 says that if you desire to be an overseer it is a fine work that you desire to do!
  - 1. Now before we look at the qualifications of a leader in the church and how they reveal the purpose of the church I want to look at this leader and this fine work.
    - Now maybe the key word hear might be work!
      - Leadership in the body of Christ is not celebrity or a popularity or a feather in your cap it is tremendous responsibility for which you will give an account for before God!
    - I have great concern for leadership in the church in church culture today it seems like in many cases that many Pastors are more popular than the message they preach.
      - I have ask many folks why do you attend such and such church and the response of is because the worship band is out of this world, or the pastor is so funny, or something to the effect that there is something really cool about the leadership!

- I am not saying that leadership shouldn't be cool I am saying they shouldn't try to be!
  - The focus of the church should never be on the leadership rather on the chief shepherd Jesus Christ!
- 2. What would you think if I told you that next week in children's church our kids were going to be taught all about Pastor Jim's vision and that they should pledge their allegiance to following it and then be handed out coloring sheets of a picture of Pastor Jim to color and take home maybe to even put up on the fridge?
- That type of thing is going on in our church culture today we have church leadership that has placed themselves and their agenda of power and influence ahead of the true purpose of the church.
  - And folks are flocking to it by the thousands and that is the response when called out "We must be doing something we have thousands of followers"!
  - So does Kim Kardashian but I am not sure that's where I want to get truth from, numbers do not equal truth.
- God's Word = Truth!

**Transition:** This Morning I want to share with you some qualifications of church leaders but maybe from a different perspective.

- A. I believe we can see if leaders are to be qualified in a certain way then it gives us insight in where and how we are to be led which gives us a general idea of the purpose of the church.
  1. Which in turn will help answer the question posed in the sermon have we lost our purpose in the church?

- The message this morning we will look specially at the pastor or overseer

READ 1 Timothy 3:2

## I. Why Would The Pastor Need to Live Above Reproach verse 2

### A. First what is reproach?

1. Reproach means to live in such a way that if something happens that person could not be blamed.
  - Uh O now let me clarified something here this does not mean that the pastor is not blamed it means that if someone would investigated they might find that the pastor or elder is not to blame.
- Often what we blame the elders for not going with our opinion not for being unbiblical which is really the only thing that the pastor can do wrong.
- That being said the Pastor must lead not by opinion but by God's Word!
  - Now what does this have to do with the purpose of the purpose of the church?
- Why would God want His under shepherd to live blameless? If He did not want to protect the reputation of the God's people!

### B. Church's should have a certain reputation and that reputation starts with leadership!

1. Pastors, Elders should never make the church about themselves but be servants!
2. Pastors and Elders should recognize that they have no power or authority that their power and authority is the Word of God.
3. Pastors and Elders should protect the reputation of God's church by living above reproach.

- But here is the disconnect to often when church leadership makes prayer decisions regarding direction for the church if it differs from the opinion of the folks then submission, respect, accountability go out the window.
  - What amazes me is there are pastor of mega churches all over this country that are living rock star lives refuse to be accountable to anyone preaching a shallow message at best and believers are flocking to these churches by the thousands.
- I said to myself I would allow myself to go their but I wouldn't stay there, moving on!
  - C. When Leadership lives above reproach it not only gives the church a reputation but it sets an example of the purpose of the church.
    1. If the Pastor is the overseer then He would be overseeing that which He knows about correct?
- Here let me say it this way: The Supervisor or overseer at any job is seeing to it that the folks are doing what?
  - That they are doing what he know about, how can a pastor hold the folks accountable, how can he teach and encourage folks about something he doesn't know anything about?
  - 2. The church has a purpose to live above reproach to live in such a way that it protects the reputation of God's precious Word, His love and His truth!
    - And it starts with leadership!

**Transition:** I knew to preachers that were placed in similar difficult situations both could have gotten caught up in a group that were about to get into some trouble they circumstance that were not chosen by either man.

- One man when ask about his actions responded “listen, work is work and church is church don’t get the two mixed up”
- The other when faced with the possibility of trouble breaking out found the security cameras and made sure not to be out of their view but to stay in their view all the time, that is living above reproach that is a man I trust to shepherd me in the Word of God!

➤ Paul writes A leader must be the husband of one wife!

1. This speaks of a few things first it says that a Pastor is male, and second is that He is loyal.

## II. A Pastor Must be Loyal verse 2

A. Why would it matter if the pastor has one wife or 5 if it wasn’t to be focused and to set an example of loyalty?

1. Jesus has one bride The Church and he is Loyal to it, He faithful to it.

- Listen to how Paul explains it to the Ephesians: **22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church [a]in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body.** Ephesians 5:22-30

➤ This qualification is paramount because it speaks of fidelity we have so many over the years church leaders fall to sexual sin adultery.

2. The Elder, the pastor is to be a loyal man it should be his personality, it should be his heart.

= It is a difficult thing loyalty but why would it be the qualification of the leader or overseer of the church if it was not an attribute of the church.

- You don't see it much anymore commitment to a body of believers!

**Transition:** Living above reproach, loyal and faithful are certainly qualifications of a leader in the church and they are qualifications because they are to be model and before the church what is first before God!

### III. **A Pastor is to Temperate** verse 2

- A. This word means to be clear headed and why should he be clear headed?
    1. Could it be that if he is clear headed he can shepherd the sheep when they are not.
      - So how does a pastor stay clear headed only by God's grace and the Word of God!
        - There have been so many times in my pastorate when my mind was so completely opposite from temperate or clear headed!
      - My head was spinning!
        2. You see most pastors are by nature fixers will like to make things ok we have good motives but sometimes we can't get it through our thick skulls that that there are somethings that only God can fix!
          - I have been in position where folks have been told or have perceived certain things have gotten upset with me or other church leadership and we never really know what they are upset about.
- Well that's one thing but it does not excuse the church leadership or the pastor not to stay clear headed, to who much is given much is required!

- B. I have spent hours late through the night trying to think how I can fix a situation before God grips me and says it is not yours to fix clear your mind focus on my word.

**Transition:** Can't you see that in that qualification we need to need our leadership in the church, we need someone that we can go to that can see clearly our situation not based on opinion but what does God's Word say about and what are we going to do because of what God's Word says about it.

- A Car doesn't need a mechanic to be a car but if the car is to function like it should it needs a mechanic!

#### IV. **A Pastor is to be Prudent, Respectable** verse 2

A. Prudent means knows what is important sets priorities

1. Respectable means things are kept in order and are not in chaos

➤ The church should be the most important thing in the pastor life outside of his family!

- He should be thinking about it, loving it, protecting it!

B. The church should not be a means to the pastor end the pastor is a servant to the church, to the people.

1. The pastor should hurt when others hurt, rejoice when others rejoice!

➤ Because of His time in prayer and in the Word of God he should set priorities and the priority is the Word of God, Worship, Evangelism that is the purpose of the church and the pastor must set those priorities!

- It is not to further his career or authority!

C. The Pastor should keep things in order based on the Word of God that is the only true order of things.

1. Things have gotten way out of hand in the emergent, seeker friendly prosperity church movements and it is because church leadership is neither prudent nor respectable!

➤ It is chaos and the priorities are way out of order!

**Close: Let me close with this last point!**

#### **A. The Pastor is to be Able to Teach!**

1. Teach what, I believe He is telling us that Pastors, Elders should be able to teach the Word of God!

- It says nothing about being able to entertain
- It says nothing about being able to make happy
- It says nothing about satisfying everyone idea

➤ It says Able to teach! Teach the Word of God!

- B. Pastors that are not teaching the Word of God but are simply reading some scripture then spending some time inspiring you to be happy is not meeting the qualification of a pastor and that church has lost its purpose!

➤ Has the Church lost its purpose if it's not teaching the Word of God then the answer is yes we have lost our purpose!

**= God help us as shepherd of your flock to feed your flock, to love them with your Word,**

**= God help your people to follow those that you have appointed as leaders without jealousy and with submission not to men but to the Word of God that we may full fill the purpose of your church to equip the believer to take your amazing Gospel and to live by it and take out to a lost world and share it to the saving of souls for your glory!**