



Lesson 5: A Lifetime of Service
Qualities for Lasting Effect

Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

- 1 Timothy 4:13-16 -

Lesson 5: A Lifetime of Service Qualities for Lasting Effect

I. WHAT YOU WILL LEARN IN THIS CLASS

- Qualifications of a Leader:
 - What Qualifies Us for Leadership?
 - What Disqualifies Us for Leadership?
- Holding Fast to Sound Doctrine
- Lessons from 1 Peter 5
- The Concept of Noblesse Oblige
- Additional Questions to Ponder

II. QUALIFICATIONS OF A LEADER

Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. 1 Timothy 3:1-7

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. Titus 1:5-9

- a. What _____ Us for Leadership?
- i. _____ (He desires a good thing)
 - ii. _____ (above reproach)
 - iii. Life of good _____ (above reproach)

- iv. _____ in order (husband of one wife (not polygamous)/home affairs and children in order)
- v. Personal life of discipline and devotion (temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, teachable, devout)

b. What _____ Us for Leadership?

- i. _____ (must be free from strongholds)
- ii. _____ (lack of gentleness (Galatians 6:1))
- iii. _____ (an argumentative spirit indicates a need to “be right”)
- iv. _____ (lover of money)
- v. _____ (not a recent convert)
- vi. _____ (lack of humility – Romans 12:3)
- vii. A leader must be _____ in the _____ .
- viii. A leader must be _____ to “speak the _____.”
- ix. A leader must be _____ from the _____ of _____ .

III. HOLDING FAST TO SOUND DOCTRINE

Paul stressed that leaders must walk in sound doctrine and good theology.

Good leadership ensures that the Body of Christ will not be subjected to false winds of doctrine.

“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.” Ephesians 4:14

“Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

1 Timothy 4:13–16

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

“All Scripture is God–breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16–17

“Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their

own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.” 2 Timothy 4:2–4

Without this sound theology, all these other qualities may make you Mr. Rogers, but you will be ineffective in leading people in ways that will truly help them.

IV. LESSONS FROM 1 PETER 5

This passage of scripture contains some important qualities and qualifications and actions for elders – those who guide and govern the local church.

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow–elder, a witness of Christ’s sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility towards one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self–controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 5:1–11

In verse 2, Peter tells the elders to “Shepherd God’s flock ... serving as overseers (those who oversee and watch over)”

The primary command in this verse is the word “Shepherd” – which is in the imperative. Then Peter gives a list of attitudes using contrast that each elder/leader/overseer/pastor must exhibit as they perform their duties to God for God’s people.

Each contrasting negative then positive phrase showing the correct attitude begins with the word “NOT”:

**Verse 2: NOT because you _____
BUT because you are _____**

This speaks of not being forced by outside forces to do the work of shepherding, but doing the work with a willing heart. It also can speak of not making the sheep

follow or work by compulsion, but by encouraging them by your willing example to serve the Lord.

The Holy Spirit will provide the burden and desire in the hearts of leaders to do the work of shepherding.

**Verse 2b: NOT greedy for _____
BUT eager to _____**

Itinerant public philosophers, speakers, or orators in the Greek speaking world were often paid for their speeches and some made a good living doing it. The New Testament certainly instructed the support of those who ministered the gospel, but this was a warning against turning the ministry office into a business for personal gain rather than for the advancement of the gospel.

The true leaders and shepherds of the people of God could not exhibit a mercenary spirit or the attitude of a hireling, only caring for one's personal well-being and not that of the people of God (see 2 Corinthians 11:7–13).

**Verse 3: NOT _____ it over those entrusted to you
BUT being _____**

The term for “lording it over” means “to bring under one's power, to subdue, to hold in subjection, to be the master as a strong person over a weaker person.” This is the same as acting in an authoritarian or dictatorial matter – in short, an autocratic style of leadership (see the example of Diotrephes in 3 John 1:9–10).

The contrast is that God's true leaders are examples to the flock of all the good qualities of leadership.

V. THE CONCEPT OF NOBLESSE OBLIGE

Noblesse oblige is a French phrase meaning “nobility obliges.”

Applying the concept in the realm of church leadership, it means that your role and position of leadership in the local church *requires* that you act in accordance with the stature of your position.

The *Oxford English Dictionary* says that the term "suggests noble ancestry constrains to honorable behavior; privilege entails to responsibility." ((1989). New York: Oxford University Press.)

Leaders in the body of Christ at Church on the Rock should constrain themselves to noble, honorable behavior, humbly reaching out to those in need. As the Scripture says, “Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.” Romans 12:16 The Bible calls us “ambassadors.” We are representatives of the heavenly Kingdom of God.

“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

As God’s fellow-workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain.”
2 Corinthians 5:20–6:1

VI. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND CONCEPTS

“Who in your life can tell you “NO” and you will still be ok with it?”

“Are you able to humbly submit to direction and guidance from godly leadership according to God’s Word? What about your parents’ guidance and direction? What about your teachers, or even governmental authorities? (Of course, godly leadership will not direct you to do anything that is illegal, immoral, unethical or unBiblical)? Exceptions would be if the government says “stop preaching the Gospel” – of course we must then obey God rather than men.

It is a poor sailor who pokes holes in his own boat! All leaders and members at Church on the Rock are expected to support the ongoing vision and mission of the church as set forth by the Senior Pastor, elders, and church leadership. Support is not only financial, but prayerful, with zeal and positive, strong, faith-filled, joyful, loving, submitted, godly, Spirit-filled attitudes and actions.

At COTR, we believe that a great move of God is more than just a great church service, but is actually worked out through the lifetime of a given generation as they serve the Lord in and through His local church.

Answers:

Pg. 38 – Qualifies, Willingness, Blameless, Character,

Pg. 39 – Domestic life, Disqualifies, Addiction, Violence, Contentiousness, Greed, Immaturity, Arrogance, strong, Word, willing, truth, free, fear, man

Pg. 40 – must, willing

Pg. 41 – money, serve, lording, examples