

Application

When does the leadership of the church become unhealthy?

Where skills or gifts trump character

- *Trusted without Testing* (1 Tim 3:10)

Where leaders are not held accountable

- *When above reproach becomes: "I don't answer to you"*
- *When public sin is seen to be acceptable* (1 Tim 1:3, 18-20; 5:20; 6:20-21)

For all those who serve:

- Pray for *Elders* and all in authority (1 Tim 2:1-2) to be of noble character, worthy of their calling
- Pray for all *Deacons* who serve in leadership positions
- Pray for yourself and members of the local churches to develop these mature characteristics
 - Leaders are not born leaders – they are grown!
- Nominate and encourage those who qualify in character for leadership positions
- Against these characteristics:
 - Hold one another accountable privately;
 - And Elders with 2 or 3 witnesses (1 Tim 5:19-20).
- Have confidence and choose to submit to Christ first and your leaders of good character – because they can be trusted to watch over you; *Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.* (Heb 13:17)

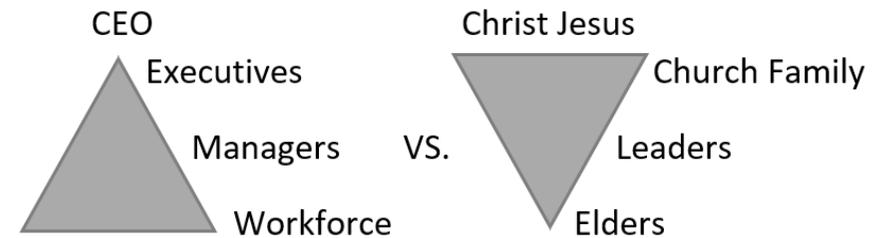
Well Served – 1 Timothy 3:1-13

25th October 2020

Introduction

Servant Leadership Structure

Business Structure vs. Church Structure



All are servants of Christ, working hard for him (Rom 16:1-15)

“The greatest among you will be your servant” (Matt 23:11; Luke 22:26)

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” (Eph 5:21)

Passage overview

A picture of spiritual maturity and Christian character – faith impacts actions and behaviour

Verse 13 – Encouraged to Serve well and faithfully:

Verses 1-7 Overseers (Pastors, Elders and Bishops – episkopos)

Who were they and what did they do?

Overseers: “Have confidence in your leaders and **submit to their authority**, because **they keep watch over you** as those who must give an account.” (Heb 13:17a)

Speaking to the gathered **Elders** from Ephesus Paul says: “**Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock** of which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**. Be **shepherds** [Pastors] of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.” (Acts 20:28) – *Over the flock* – The Local church congregation.

Elders were appointed by other elders or the Apostles (1 Tim 4:14; Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5)

Elders or **Overseers** were plural (1 Tim 4:14; Acts 20:17; James 5:14; 1 Peter 5:1)

1 Tim 5:17-20; Elders, Overseers, Pastors:

- Direct the church (v17)
- Preaching and teaching (v17)
- Some supported financially by the church (v18)
- A position of responsibility and authority (v19-20)
- Held accountable for sin publicly (v20)

V 2-3 Personal Character:

V 4-7 Relating to others:

Verses 8-12 Deacons (servant leaders - diakonos)

- Responsible for areas of service in the local church (first seen in Acts 6)
- Respectful of the authority of the Elders (v10)

V8-9 Personal Character:

V10 Tested & released:

V11 Wives of Leaders and Female Deacons:

“In the same way, **the women** are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.”

“I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae.” (Rom 16:1)

V12 Relating to others: