

10-Easier Kept than Recovered

Paul wrote to Timothy and to Titus listing the qualifications of elders that the first churches should use in their selection process. He wrote:

Titus 1:6-9 (ISV) – *An elder must be blameless. He must be the husband of one wife¹ and have children who are believers and who are not accused of having wild lifestyles or of being rebellious. Because an overseer is God’s servant manager, he must be blameless. He must not be arrogant or irritable. He must not drink too much, be a violent person, or make money in shameful ways. Instead, he must be hospitable to strangers, must appreciate what is good, and be sensible, honest, moral, and self-controlled. He must be devoted to the trustworthy message that agrees with what we teach, so that he may be able to encourage others with healthy doctrine and refute those who oppose it.*

Notice that these qualities are all about the person's character, not their spirituality. Can you now see the importance that needs to be placed on character for leadership?

NOTE: I assume that the persons being evaluated for the role of elder had the right spiritual qualities and giftings. These are critic, but have been left out of the list by Paul.

Myles describes character as being like preventative medicine:

“[I]t keeps you morally healthy so that you won’t develop maladies as a result of ethical flaws. One of the most serious of these disorders is untrustworthiness. Once you lose the trust of your family, your friends, or your colleagues, it is very difficult to win it back.”²

Leaders who have ethical defects lose the trust of their followers. This happens easily because we've all experienced betrayal of some sort or other, and the pain or anger that it generates in us when we remember the situation(s).

Trust is almost impossible to restore, so watch carefully every thought, action or speech. Myles suggests the following questions should be in the forefront of our minds at all times:

- “Am I, in any way, violating the trust of those who have placed their faith in me?”
- “What impact am I having on those who are influenced or affected by my behaviour?”

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1 – Or *devoted to his wife*; lit. *a man of one woman*

2 – Myles Munroe (2014) “The Power of Character in Leadership: How Values, Morals, Ethics, and Principles Affect Leaders” Whitaker House p:26