

Discovering the Bible

Lesson 41 What the Pastor does

“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

1. The word overseer also means Elder. We can desire to be an Elder in the church
2. The Elder has particularly high standards to live up to
3. Would you recognise God calling you to be an Elder?

“Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God ... Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.”

Romans 1:1,5

1. Paul was an Elder in the Church as well as an apostle
2. It is God who appoints Elders to their calling
3. Elders are meant to call people from ‘the Gentiles’ to obedience that comes from faith
4. What does this mean to you

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

Ephesians 4:11-13

1. There are a number of functions God calls people to
2. Not all people will have these functions or be gifted in all of these areas

1. The aim of these functions, or offices, is to prepare God's people to perform services
2. Through this means all of the church is to be 'built up'
3. According to the last part what does it mean to be 'built up'?

"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.

1 Peter 5:2,3

1. Care should be at the heart of how a 'shepherd' relates to those in the church. We can relate the office of 'shepherd' to that of Pastor or Elder
2. The Elder is not to be over-bearing

"The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning."

1 Timothy 5:17-20

1. All people are to be honoured, but Elders have special respect—especially if they teach or preach
2. Some Elders may be paid for their services

3. The Elder is not above reproach
4. Is the Elder better than an ordinary member of the church?

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you. Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men."

Titus 2:11-3:2

1. All people have access to God's grace
2. God's grace leads us to live upright lives. We are to be pure
3. As God's people we look forward to the coming of Jesus. Are you?
4. The Elder who is being written to, is given an idea of what to teach
5. In verse 14 Christians are called 'a people'. The Greek word is laos. The members and Elders are all part of God's laos. We are all God's people. There is no idea of first and second class Christians—laymen and pastors