

Sermon Discussion Questions

"Biblical Church Leadership"

1Timothy 3:1-7; 1Peter 5:1-4; 1Timothy 5:17-20

Pastor Bill Lerch

August 7, 2016

1. Pastor Bill began by giving a brief synopsis of what's been happening in his life over the past 10 years. How has your life changed in the last 10 years? What significant events and/or choices happened to help shape those changes?
2. Pastor Bill mentioned that the statement "This is a trustworthy statement..." was used five times in the Pastoral Epistles. Four times it was used to emphasize doctrinal statements; once it was used for a "Duty Code". Do you think that the use of this statement fits with the "Duty Code"? Why/Why not?
3. Pastor Bill made mention of the fact that God gives every believer a "burden" that is the birthing of a call to some form of Christian service. Do you sense a "burden" for some aspect of Christian service? If so, what is it? What is your next step?
4. Paul uses a biblical writing form called an "inclusio" to highlight the importance of an elder's public reputation. Why is this so important?
5. There has been much dialog about Paul's elder qualification of "...the husband of one wife." After considering some of the options Pastor Bill mentioned, which one do you feel fits the context of elder qualifications best? Why?
6. Pastor Bill highlighted two qualifications that go above and beyond the call to godliness given to all believers. What were they? Why are these qualifications so important for church leaders to possess?
7. Pastor Bill quoted D.A. Carson as it relates to the importance of seeing in an elder a practical example of what a devoted Christ-follower would look like. What examples do you see in our church leadership of a life that reflects a devoted Christ-follower? How would you put those concepts into practice in your own life?
8. What does it mean for a church leader to "...shepherd God's flock."?
9. Pastor Bill read John 21:15-19, where Jesus reinstates Peter with three questions and three replies to Peter's answers. What is the relationship between the questions asked and Jesus' replies to Peter?
10. In 1Timothy 5:17-19 Paul talks about church leaders who are worthy of "double honor". If you honor and respect church leaders, what response from you should be forthcoming?
11. How do you respond when someone says something critical about a church leader to you in private? How should you respond?
12. Pastor Bill mention that in four of his interims he called for what Scripture identifies as a "Sacred Assembly". Have you ever been in a church situation where such a service would have been timely and beneficial? Explain with appropriate discretion.
13. Pastor Bill ended with what he calls his three main tasks as an interim pastor: Preach God's Word; Love the Congregation; Mentor Church Leaders. Is there anything else that you would add for a permanent Senior Pastor? If so, what would they be?