

# Trustworthy Sayings

## 5 – Leadership is Character

### 1 Timothy 3.1-13

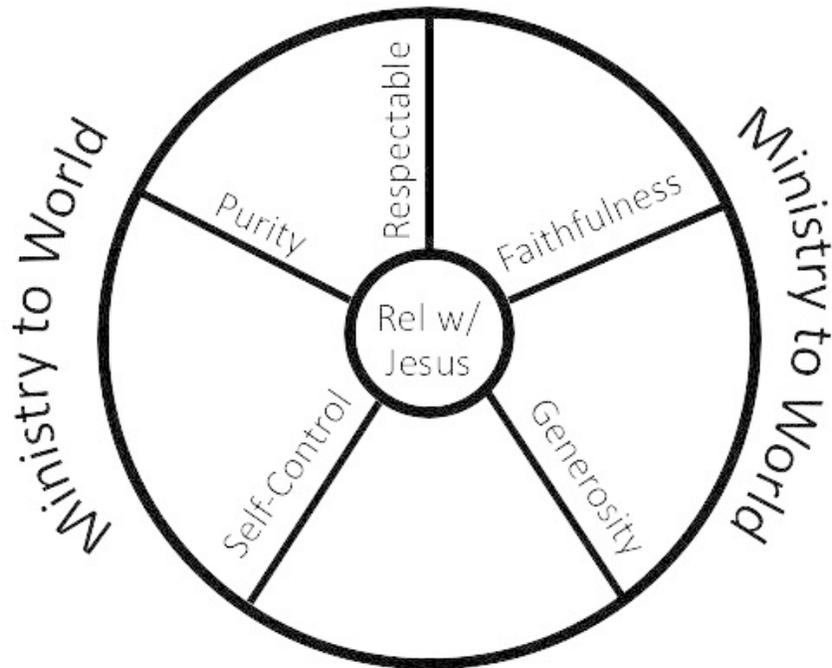
#### Two Realms of Church Leadership

- Elders – plurality of godly men
  - Charged with watching over doctrine, direction, and discipline
- Deacons – godly people given to service
  - Given all sorts of service-related roles in the church

**Character Traits** (not exhaustive, but expected) – Above Reproach and Dignified are umbrella statements

- Faithful in Marriage – “one-woman man”
  - Especially true of new life in Christ, though it doesn’t say he can never be divorced
  - Question is not related to circumstance but to character
- Sober-minded – clear headed and serious about leading
- Self-controlled – it’s a challenge to hold your tongue sometimes
- Respectable – poise and appropriate decorum
- Hospitable – relationships matter, so this is important
- Teach – doesn’t have to every week, but has to be able to speak in a way that will help others understand and grow in faith (men of word who can share the word)
- Not a drunkard – addictive in personality, loss of control, need for acceptance?
- Not violent – because some things will make you mad
- Not quarrelsome – arguing for its own sake or to be right is a sign of narcissism or its tendencies
- Not money-lover – use Gospel to make money means you love money more than God (can’t serve both)
- Keep household – dignity, proper use of and respect for authority (“if it ain’t working at home, don’t export it” ~ B. Camp)
- Not recent convert – spiritual maturity isn’t related to age, but leadership brings temptation to pride – need someone who has been knocked down a few times
  - Celebrities who are put in the spotlight too early
- Well thought of by outsiders – you reflect and represent those you lead
- Not double-tongued – say one thing, do another OR say one thing then another
- Hold to mystery of faith – grounded even when disappointed (service demands this)
- Tested first – some people can serve for a little while in their own strength, then fail
- Not slanderers – speaking ill of others (talking about before talking to)
- Faithful in all things – “I will do whatever the Lord requires me to do” – applies to any situation

Summary – relationship with Jesus, character, ministry to the world



Without the center, it gets off course / won't go

Without the spokes, it gets crushed

- But people get lauded for their skills and gifts, only what people see

### **Leadership IS Character**

- Character will keep you centered and supported
- Character will guide you when life is unpredictable - GWB
- Character will sustain you when gifts and skills fail
- ONLY character will last into eternity – skills and gifts will not

### **Why do I care if I'm not called to church leadership?**

- In what arena of your life are these bad things?
- What if you are called later?

### **What if I've messed up?**

- Paul – murderer turned apostle
- Peter – betrayer turned spokesman

#### **4 Applications:**

1. If you want to serve in the church or the world, pursue these
2. If you have men in your life, pray for them to become this
3. If you have women in your life, pray for them to marry this
4. Expect this from your leadership

AW Story – church leadership demands character = He must be serious

#### Questions for Discussion

1. Who is the greatest leader(s) you have ever followed / served under? Why? What were you able to accomplish because of their leadership?
2. Out of the 18 (or so) character traits Paul lists in the qualifications for elders and deacons, what stands out to you? Why? How might that particular trait express itself in our church?
3. What leader have you seen that didn't finish well? What impact did that have?
4. Read Titus 1.5-10 and 1 Peter 5.1-5. What character traits do you see that are the same or similar? Which are different?
5. What is one trait you need to pursue for your own life? What is one you need to pray for the men in your life? For the women? For our church's leadership?