

“Profile of a Godly Leader”
1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Acts 20
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Good morning to you. I have been preaching the last six days in a bible conference in Canada. The previous message at the 8:30 service a couple of times my voice squeaked like this because I don't have much vocal left after preaching all of those sermons this past week. So if I squeak, just pray for me.

We started in this series leaving a leadership legacy a month ago talking about how God is wanting to do a new thing in our church in terms of raising up leaders. We've been preaching through Acts 20 because we want to get a real clear picture, not just in a week or two, but a real clear picture of what does a leader look like in God's church. What does it mean to be a leader? We extended that to being a leader in the home. We extended that to being a leader in the community, to being a leader in your business. Wherever there is leadership, the kinds of things we've been talking about the last couple of weeks are the kinds of things we can be putting into practice.

I'm very excited about some of the e mails and the comments that some of you have made to me and given to me and that I heard this past week. Hearing all of the comments just helps me remember again how desperate we are as people, as a nation, really as a world for clarity on leadership.

This past week just out of curiosity I put into my search engine in Google the word “leader.” If you have done this, you can search things the internet, or you can search things like the newspaper or news articles. So I tried that. I typed in “leaders.” Just over the last couple of weeks there was a ton of articles that not only were about leadership but were about this point here, how much we need leaders. One article that I read, after the opening paragraph, every paragraph that followed in this quite lengthy article started with the phrase, every paragraph, “we need leaders.” Then it would describe what kind of leaders. In this particular case it was some of the economic sectors of our society. It was this reiterative phrase “we need leaders.” As I walked through all these listings in the Google list, I saw the need for leaders, world leaders, global leaders, peace leaders, leaders in boy scouts, leaders in sports, leaders in educational institutions. It seemed like every sector of society is crying out for leaders. I came across a phrase that I never heard before where a person said we are in a “leadership emergency.” I never heard those two words put together. After all the things I read about all the need we had for leaders, when I saw the words “leadership emergency,” I was like wow, we really do need leaders.

1. The Need for Godly Leaders

This is true in the church as well. It always has been. In Acts 20 when Paul was passing the baton of leadership on to the next generation in the church in Ephesus, he was saying this kind of thing, he was saying, “I need you, the church needs you to be great leaders.” Paul says in Acts 20, “so I'm going to take the time not just to toss you the baton in this relay race of leadership, but I'm going to slowly and surely teach about what it means to be a leader. I'm going to carefully pass on the baton so the exchange happens between my leadership as I started this church and pastored it for three years,” Paul said, “and my leaving now and passing this leadership legacy on to you.” We need leaders, godly leaders.

What Paul saw in the church in Ephesus and what we see across the communities and the world today is a picture of the kind of leadership we need. So I want to talk today about a very narrow profile of a Godly leader because not only does the world need leaders, the church desperately needs a certain kind of leader, what I'm just calling today a Godly leader.

When I started this series, I told you six weeks ago, I think it was that I was going to come to today and do a sermon called the "Profile of a Godly Leader" that in addition to those six weeks on teaching on leadership there would be one sermon that I would preach that I would invite you to listen to with ears of listening to the Spirit. That you might say, "as Pastor Jim talks from the Word of God about what a Godly leader is, would you, Holy Spirit, put in my heart and my mind the name or the face of a leader in Church of the Open Door that I can then recommend and nominate to be on one of the future boards at our church?"

I told you that we had just voted in by the membership of our church a new bylaw structure which brought in a new leadership and government structure, as a part of those bylaws I was asking us to take seriously what it means to select Godly leaders. I told you how most of the churches I've been in or been associated with, when it comes time to choosing leaders, it turns out to be nothing more than a popularity contest. "Who do I like in the church?" Or "whose Daddy was a leader, who's giving the most money?" This very serious issue of selecting leaders who will hear from God and guide us into the future gets boiled down to a popularity contest? That's not the way we want to do it. We wrote into our bylaws that we're asking you the church to take this seriously and to listen to biblical teaching on what a Godly leader is and then based upon that profile ask God "is there someone you would put into my mind that I would be able to write down on a nomination form to nominate them to be a leader at Church of the Open Door based upon prayerful hearing of the Word of God."

Now, I wrote a letter to the church two weeks ago. I've heard that only some of you have gotten this. In our first service, only half of the people got the letter. I don't know exactly what's going on, but hopefully you'll get it this next week. In this letter not only did I give you a description of what I'm talking about right now, but I gave you a picture of what our leadership selection process is going to look like.

In the letter, I refer to you our web site where you can download all of our bylaws or a section of our bylaws that talk about the leadership selection process and I refer to a leadership nomination form. I want to talk about this now and at the end of the service.

The way we're going to choose leaders is you the people of God are going to listen to the Spirit of God and listen to the teaching of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit is going to put in your heart, in your mind, the name, the face, of a leader who fits the profile of what I'm going to teach today, not a leader who you think has potential who one day could lead our church, who one day can be a part of our leadership structure. No, someone who fits the profile we're talking about right now, not a perfect person, not a perfect leader, but someone who as you are hearing the teaching you hear the Spirit of God whispering into your heart this is the kind of leader that can be nominated for consideration to be either on the church life board or the church stewardship board. This is all in the bylaws that you either have read or can read. It's this new leadership structure in our church.

So as I promised six weeks ago, here I am today to preach this message, "The Profile of a Godly leader." I want you to just be thinking as we talk about need for Godly leaders, I want you to think about Church of the Open Door. I want you to be thinking about all of these passionate sermons I've been preaching about the future that I believe that God has for our church. The times that I've gotten all excited and tearful and spit and shouted and said I believe

God has a great vision for us, a great future for us. I want you to understand that that great future cannot be reached, that great vision that God's been giving cannot be fulfilled without a group of Godly leaders. That's just the way God's designed it. He's not decided to paint leadership principles in the sky and give leadership direction in the sky. He leads his church through leaders. That's why the need for leaders in the church is so paramount.

You've heard me say a phrase that I picked up from somebody else, that "the church is the hope of the world." This person that said this, that "the church is the hope of the world, not medicine, not politics, not government, not education. It's the church that is the hope of the world," then added, "and its future rests in the hands of its leaders." It's a very sobering thought. I'm not saying that to say that the Holy Spirit is not leading the church. But the Holy Spirit leads through leaders. So the need for Godly leaders is absolutely huge.

Now, when you ask that question "why is the need so great," it's because it's very simple, everything rises and falls on leadership. It does in our country. It does in our world. It does in your family. It does over any organization that you care about. It does in the church. The way God's designed our world, he has instituted leadership, instituted authority, instituted leadership structures and leadership positions to fulfill responsibilities. Everything goes forward or rises or falls based upon leadership. So the need for Godly leaders is huge in our church if we're going to go forward to meet our vision. Also that begs the question then "what kind of leader, how do you find the qualifications for this kind of Godly leader?" Paul thought through that very, very carefully.

I invite you to turn with me to 1 Timothy 3 where Paul's going to give us a picture of what Godly leadership looks like. He's going to do it by literally listing the qualifications of a Godly leader.

2. The Qualifications of a Godly Leader

Paul also does this in the book of Titus, and he continues in verse 8 through 13 of 1 Timothy and talks about other kind of leaders, Deacon leaders in the church. But all three of these passages, Titus 3:1-7 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13, all give us pretty much a consistent picture of the qualifications of a Godly leader because if we're looking for Godly leaders, let's ask what that means. It boils down to a list of about 14, 15 things. So let me put this Scripture on the screen and you can see that what this list is.

Paul says, "here's a trustworthy saying. If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer..." we talked about an overseer is just another word, it's a secular word, actually, for a leader, elder, overseer, pastor, all synonyms, all meaning a leader in the church..."if someone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task" that's good. Every once in a while I hear people who have this idea of being humble is I have slumped shoulders and ah, shucks, I'll serve if you want me to, I really don't want to, I don't think I really have anything to offer, I'm just Mr. Eeyore leader, and if you want to, I'll lead. No, Paul says it's a great thing, it's a noble thing. In fact, what I'm going to be saying in this service is "I want God, I'm asking God to put on the hearts of the people in our church who the next group of leaders are." And that they'll sense that in their own lives. They'll sense a call, a draw to be a leader. It's not something that you shy away from. It's something that you hold your shoulders back and you say, okay, I sense God calling me, I want to live up to this responsibility. It's a noble task. The church needs me and my leadership ability.

What kind of leaders does the church need? Let's go on, verse 2, "the overseer must be above reproach." The first thing on Paul's list. It simply means that your life doesn't have some

hidden activities in it so that when you become a leader in a position of the church and this stuff comes out in your life, now you're a reproach upon the church. There is something, there is this double life you have, you're one way in the church but you're a whole other way in your community and in your family, when that dark secret comes out, it's just, oh, it's bad news, and that brings reproach upon the church. It brings reproach upon the name of God. This has unfortunately happened since the very beginning of church. It happens today. A leader does something that brings shame upon the Church of Christ. Paul says from the very beginning, "if that stuff's going on in your life, don't bring that into the church. Please, don't bring that kind of reproach upon the church." Here's why, friends. Since the church is the hope of the world, if the world looks at the church and goes, "what a bunch of hypocrites, ah, they say one thing and do another," then they'll not only set aside the church, they'll also set aside their need for God. It is absolutely paramount that if you're being considered for leadership in the church that you come clean about anything in your life that could be seen as a double life.

Now, when I preach like this, people go "uh, uh, you mean if someone finds out that I did something wrong, they're going to tell the church?" No. I'm talking about a double life. No one's perfect. When I sin, I confess my sin. When I make a mistake, I own up to my mistake. What I'm talking about is this hidden thing that "I don't want nobody to know about" and if it comes out, it will bring reproach. Paul says don't do that to the church of God. So think about it ahead of time, your life must be above reproach.

The second thing, "be a husband of one wife". In other words, "be a faithful spouse." Not this two timing kind of thing. Not a gigilo in the church. It happened in those days. It happens today in some churches, and I hope it's not happening in our church. But Paul says, no, "you be faithful to your spouse." That's the kind of leader that we're looking for. That's one of the qualifications.

The next word, there is a "temperance," a temperance about your life. What does that mean? It means that you're not given to extremes. There's balance. There's sensibility; that's what this word temperance means. There's balance and direction in your life, not just kind of flopping around and you're giving in to the opinion polls. There's a steadiness, that's a good word. A steadiness is what temperance is about.

The next phrase: that you're "practicing self control." It's very similar to the word temperance, but it refers to a life that's self disciplined; that there's a clear direction in your life that you're following and you're able to discipline your life towards that direction. You're not a pinball in a pinball machine bouncing around, you have no self control, you do whatever other people do, you live by the opinion polls, you live by what other people want you to do so you're a people pleaser. You're led by your feelings and do whatever your feelings or urges are demanding at the moment. No, leaders need to have self control. You're not given to addictive behavior, you can practice self control in your life.

The next sentence is very easy to understand. Next word is "respectable;" that people look at your life and they respect you. This is not rocket science. There's respectability in your life.

The next one, you're "hospitable." There's an openness about you as a person, that you welcome people into your life, into your home, that there is not this closedness but openness to strangers, openness to people who are in need, that you're a hospitality type person. You're a hospitable person.

Next phrase, "able to teach." Simply means you're able to explain the truths of scripture. It doesn't mean that you have necessarily the gift of teaching, or you're the best teacher in the

church. It means that you are able, like it says, you are able to explain “this is what it means to be a Christian. This is what it means to follow Jesus. This is what it means to discover God's Word.” You're able to teach people from God's Word so they can follow God. It's one of the qualifications of being a Godly leader.

Next verse, verse 3, you're not “given to drunkenness.” Anybody need me to explain that? Let's go beyond getting drunk with beer and wine. Let's talk about any other mind altering substance, that you're not giving yourself to a substance, alcohol or some drug that is altering your behavior, altering your judgment. It's not only a picture that you're out of control, but it's a picture that you can't make good judgments because you're drunk. And Paul says, apparently there must have been people who thought it was okay to be drunk and then go to a church board meeting. I don't know, I'm not exactly sure why he put it in there, but it was important to him, so it's important to me. We don't want people who are drunks on our church boards, just in case you didn't know that.

The next phrase, “not violent.” I don't know whether Paul was thinking that when people get drunk, they often get violent or whether he was speaking specifically about some people in leadership there in Ephesus were violent. But let's just be real clear, if you're a person who loses your temper, who's a violent kind of a person, who is so aggressive that you're all over people, then I invite you to wait on church leadership. Instead there's a gentleness. Don't get me wrong, we want aggressive people. We want leaders with vision, we want leaders who are going places, but there's a way to go after it aggressively that's not violent and that doesn't violate people's will or choice; there's a way to go about it with gentleness. Paul says, “we don't want violence happening in the church.”

Next phrase, that you're not “quarrelsome.” If you've been around the church for very long, you maybe grew up in a church, sooner or later you hear a church story about a quarrelsome board member that at every board meeting it seems, they're the one that takes the negative side, they're picking fights like in the board meeting. As soon as they start to speak, everybody on the board is like “okay, here we go.” Or maybe it's two people that they go at each other. People end up not liking board meetings because those two people are always going to get into it. Either one or both of them are quarrelsome. That's why Paul says, “if that's the way you are, you're not ready to be a leader. There's a quarrelsome spirit in you and you are disqualified from the kind of leadership that we need in the church.” We need to hear this and heed it.

You're not a “lover of money.” It means that you understand the power of money. You use money, but you're not a slave to money. Money's not your God. You're not so focused on money that your whole life is geared around “how can I get more money?” That money has become your God. It doesn't say money is bad, its not, the church needs money, you need money. There's a difference between that and being a lover of money. A person who is a lover of money is a person who cannot be a lover of God because Jesus himself said “you cannot serve God and money.” The very nature of loving money divides your loyalties. Paul says “you can't be a lover of money.”

The next verse, verse 4, “he must be able to manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.” Paul then explains that “if anyone doesn't know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?” This verse needs to be explained because I hear people quote this verse and say, “well, because I saw the pastor's son smoking, he should resign from the pastorate.” Not that my son is smoking. Or they say, “because I saw this leader's daughter doing this, they're disqualified.” Paul's emphasis here is not on the behavior of the children. He refers to their behavior, but the emphasis is on the parent,

the leader in question, on the way you lead in your home. It's on your management style, your leadership style in the home. In other words, "are you leading with loving discipline or are your children just running wild and you're not even paying attention." That's what it's referring to. Not that you have perfect children and if they're not, if I can find something wrong with them, I can disqualify you. Understand what the passage is talking about.

The very first parent in history, anybody know his name? God, right. He couldn't get his kids to do what he wanted. So what makes you think a church leader in our church is going to have perfect kids? It's not going to happen. The issue is "what kind of parent are you?" If your kids are wild, what are you doing about it? If they're not wild yet, how are you running your home? Because the way that you deal with things at home is the way you'll deal with things at church. It's asking people to explore "am I an involved, committed, engaged leader in my home? Am I teaching my children to be obedient? Am I teaching my children respect? Am I a leader worthy of respect?" Paul says you must be respectful. That's what he's getting to in Verses four and five.

Then Verses six and seven, you "must not be a recent convert." That makes perfect sense, doesn't it? I like to use the phrase "ministry mileage" to refer to how long a person has walked with God. Do you have enough "ministry mileage" or do you have enough "maturity mileage" under your belt so you have experienced things in the church, you have experienced walking with God, you know God's voice, you've walked with God long enough that you can lead people on this adventure of following God. Paul explains because if you're a recent convert who's not yet had the experiences with God that are shaping your heart and growing you to a place where you're a humble servant of God, you might be tempted to pride and say, wow, "I'm a really special person because I'm in leadership," you might be full of conceit because you're in this leadership position. So hopefully ministry mileage and maturity mileage will bring you to a place where you don't fall into that kind of conceit. And he gives an example of the devil, who had a high position as an angel before he fell and became the devil because he was full of conceit.

Verse 7, a rather easy, understandable phrase, he "must also have a good reputation with outsiders so he will not fall into disgrace into the devil's trap." It's similar to the very first thing Paul said about a life above reproach, but he gets real clear about it now. "I don't want you living one life in the church and another life in the community." If your reputation in the business world, in the business community is that you're stingy, that you're dishonest, that you don't pay your bills as a businessman, if you've got a reputation in the community that's one thing, then try to be something else in the church, how do people in the community look at you? Do they respect you? Does your life bring honor to God's name? Do you have a good reputation because, friends, we know this really well these days, the reputation of Church of the Open Door is built or hurt by the reputation of the members of the Church of the Open Door in the community. Right? So Paul says, duh, isn't that kind of obvious? If you're not living a life that's worthy of respect, then don't ask for a leadership position. Don't bring that into the church. All these are really simple to understand qualifications of what it means to be a leader. But we tend to be people who make lists, look at lists and then say, okay, that's the only thing I have to do is follow that list.

So the next place I want to take you to is what kind of person is it that lives a life that's above reproach, that has one husband or one wife, a temperate, self controlled person, that kind of stuff, that kind of issue is talking about the character that is inside of a person that produces

the behaviors, the actions that Paul's talking about in 1 Timothy 3. So let's look at the character of a Godly leader. That's really important.

3. The Character of a Godly Leader

Now, the way I want to do this is to invite you to look with me at the first time the church needed more leaders. If you're familiar with the Book of Acts, it tells the story of the birth of the church. That's where the church got started. Luke tells the story. For the first five chapters of the Book of Acts, the church is growing like crazy, and the leaders of the church were apparently doing a good enough job of leading the church, but something happened between Acts 5 and Acts 6 that the church got so big that the current leaders did not have enough time in their life to lead effectively. So in Acts 6 we see the first example of the church needing more leaders. So this is the first selection process, a great place for us to look at.

I invite you to look with me at Acts 6 and verse 3 we see a picture of what they recommended, “brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this new responsibility of leadership over to them.” They said “this expanding responsibility of leadership we'll turn over to this new group of leaders.”

Look at the phrase “full of the Spirit” that I've highlighted up there on the screen. Full of the Spirit. That's the very first thing that they thought of when they were thinking about the qualifications of a leader because they recognized that it is the character of a person that will produce the kind of life that meets the qualifications. They realized that what drives a person's character is what they are full of. Is the leader full of himself, is he full of ambition, or is he full of the Holy Spirit? We want leaders in the church who are full of the Spirit. Don't write down in your notes yet under point three “full of the Spirit” because I'm not ready yet for that. Because not only do they say full of the Spirit but they say “full of the Spirit and wisdom.”

Now, wisdom is one of the characteristics or we might say one of the fruits of being full of the Spirit. It gives us a hint that Paul and the early church are not satisfied with just saying “are you full of the Spirit?” They're wanting evidence that you are full of the Spirit. So full of the Spirit and evidence of that, there's a wisdom in your life. That reminds me of a great passage in Galatians 5 where we see a list of more evidences of being full of the Spirit. You may know it as Galatians 5:22 where Paul says “the fruit of the Spirit, the evidence that you're full of the Spirit, and these are all character issues, if there is love in your life, if there's joy, peace, patience, kindness...” what a great list of description of a character of a Godly leader, “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.” Not an exhaustive list but a very good list of the kind of character that the power of the Holy Spirit produces in the life of a person who has surrendered their life to Jesus Christ, who has said “fill me with your Spirit and I'll follow you as you work out your presence in my life.”

So what I would like you to write down is “a Godly leader is full of the fruit, the evidence of the Holy Spirit.”

□ Full of the Fruit of the Holy Spirit

Maybe you know somebody who, I have known people all my life, who claim to be Christians, who may even claim to be full of the Spirit, but I don't see evidence. I don't see fruit. They're stingy, they're cranky, they're gossips. They slander. I mean, that's not fruit of the Spirit or if it is, it's the wrong kind of spirit. So Paul has to be clear. “Are you full of the Holy Spirit

and is there evidence in your life, can people point to demonstrable fruit in your life that says, yes, he or she is full of the fruit of the Spirit?" That's the kind of character we're looking for in a Godly leader.

We talked about the need for a leader. We talked about the qualifications of leadership, of Godly leadership. And we talked about the character that produces that. Now let's talk real quickly about the responsibilities of a Godly leader.

4. The Responsibilities of a Godly Leader

I can do this quickly because this is going to be basically a review of many of the things we talked about over the last couple weeks. So I will not go into great detail to explain these. If you want to know more about each one of these points I'm going to make now, then get one of the tapes from the series Leaving a Leadership Legacy.

The first thing I want you to see is when Paul talks about the leaders in Acts 20 that I've been talking about, he says you saw how I lived, I served. I served the Lord as I served you with humility.

- **Serve with Humility**

So this first responsibility of a Godly leader is that you are a servant leader. Remember we talked about the way you demonstrate that you're a servant leader is by you being a leading servant. You just flip those around. Paul said "I served with humility," in Acts 20:19, and "that's the way I want you to lead" he says to these leaders in Ephesus. I would say to you based upon the authority of God's Word, the kind of leaders we want are leaders who carry out the responsibility of Godly leadership by serving with humility.

- **Model with Authenticity**

And Paul says, "I didn't just teach that, I lived it. You know how I lived, he said. I modeled this for you. I gave you an example of serving leadership. I authentically modeled the kind of servant leadership I'm calling you toward."

Now, in Acts 20:28-31, we see probably the best picture of this servant leadership that we could find in all scripture. I'll read that for you again and I'll highlight a couple of key words that we've been talking about. Paul says, "keep watch over yourselves and all the flock over which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers." So we highlight the word "overseers." Then the next word, "be shepherds over the church of God which he bought with his own blood." Then Paul talks about how after I leave there will be wolves come in to try to destroy the church. So you must "guard" these truths, "guard" the unity of the church, "guard" the life and the health of the church.

So those three phrases, those three words, overseers, shepherds, guard, are three things I want you to look at. Before we do, I want to take you real quick to 1 Peter 5 and you'll see almost the exact same language. In Acts 20 Paul was speaking to elders. So Peter says "to the elders, among you, I appeal as a fellow elder." And then he says "I'm a witness of Christ's suffering and one who will share in God's glory to be revealed. Be shepherds of God's flock that

is under your care, serving as overseers, the same language we saw before, not because you must but because you're willing as God wants you to be, not greedy for money but eager to serve.”

There's our word, “serve.” Not lording it over those entrusted to you. This is the stewardship idea. We're entrusted with people. “Not lording it over those entrusted to you but being examples to the flock.” So it's almost like Peter and Paul have the same list. That's because they're listening to the same Holy Spirit. So you can hold your place in 1 Peter 5 and Acts 20 as I go through these next couple of pictures.

- **Shepherd with Courage**

Godly leaders are leaders who are shepherds of the flock. And when I preached about this a couple weeks ago, I talked about how shepherds are not these little boys who take care of little woolly animals and sing lullabies. Shepherds are strong, courageous, visionary leaders who guide and set direction. That's what leaders do, they set direction, they guide the sheep to food, to water, to protection, they fight off the enemy. They shepherd with courage, with bold love as a shepherd. I don't want to preach that sermon again, so I'll just put that up there for you.

- **Guard with Diligence**

In their shepherding, they're guarding the flock. Paul says “guard the truth, so guard that truth with diligence. You've been given a responsibility, take it serious.”

- **Oversee with Integrity**

Your job as leaders to be an overseer, we talked about that as one who kind of looks over the life of the church, sees over it and then acts accordingly. They act with integrity as they see over, as they look over what's going on in the church. We don't want a leader who sees something that needs to be addressed in the church and they say I don't want to talk about that. They need to be people who are people of integrity, when they see something that is going wrong, they address it, they deal with it. Doesn't mean they talk to the whole church about it, but they go to that person. They deal with things as they are leading with integrity, with that kind of skill set.

Then the last picture that Paul and Peter both give for us is this idea of stewardship.

- **Manage with Faithfulness**

And stewardship is management, that you're managing what belongs to someone else. You're stewarding what someone else owns. We talked about in 1 Corinthians 4 about Paul says “now it's required that those who have been given a trust,” 1 Peter 5 says “we've been entrusted with these people, it is required for those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.” So in your role, in your responsibility as a steward, as a manager, you do that with faithfulness. Now, again those are things we've all talked about in previous sermons in this series. Those just kind of give us that picture of the responsibilities of a Godly leader.

Let's now finish this up by talking about this calling that I referred to earlier.

5. The Calling of a Godly Leader

Here's what I've been asking God. I've been asking the Lord to call leaders who fit these qualifications, this profile, who will fulfill these responsibilities, who meet this kind of criteria, who have this kind of character. I'm asking God to call those leaders in our church by putting the names and the faces of them in your hearts and mind so you would write them down. And I'm asking God that in the life of every leader that He's going to call, I'm asking him to speak to your heart, if God's calling you to be a leader, then you don't hear about it first from a person who says, hey, I think you would be a good leader but that already the Spirit of God has been speaking to you or calling to you.

I came to this church because God called me. He called me through a search committee but that search committee didn't twist my arm and convince me. I responded to God's call. I'm asking God to do the same thing. I believe we need the kind of leaders who are called by God. When Jesus was starting to pass on his leadership legacy, he started by calling, what? his disciples. He said "follow me." So the most important qualification for a Godly leader is a that they are a person who is becoming like Christ.

5. The Calling of a Godly Leader...is to become more and more like Christ...and, to lead others in the adventure of becoming like Christ.

That you are a person who is a follower of Jesus, who is a disciple of Jesus Christ, but not only that they're a disciple of Christ, they're one that's becoming like Christ, they're the one who answered the call to become like Christ, but in the words of our mission statement, they are loving God, they're loving people, they're living surrendered, that they are leading others in the adventure of becoming like Christ. Let me spell this out. We want leaders in Church of the Open Door who are examples of our mission statement.

If you don't know our mission statement, then you're not going to be a good leader in our church. If you don't like our mission statement, then please don't be a leader in our church. We want leaders who not only know and own but who have that mission statement, to lead others on the adventure of becoming like Christ, burning in their heart to such a degree that they're willing to step into a leadership role and say I want to help make that mission possible, make it happen. So in one phrase we're asking for you to nominate leaders who are Christlike leaders. A Godly leader is a Christlike leader. Those kind of leaders will help us fulfill the mission that God's given us.

So the way I want to end this message is just to remind you of this form that was spoken about earlier. I think I'll put it up on the screen for you. If you've not received this letter in the mail, when it comes this next week, read it carefully. If you want to get a copy of today's sermon, we'll give you a free copy to listen prayerfully and then if and as the Holy Spirit prompts you to write down the name of a leader, that you would fill out the leadership nominations form, not just put their name on a yellow sticky note, but fill out the leadership nominations form, you would start our process of us passing the baton on to this next generation of leaders in our church. And that you would take this very, very seriously.

As I was talking about this in the first service, I got goose bumps thinking about the potential of our church if you'll take this seriously. Just imagine if we select the Godliest, most Christlike leaders in this church to lead in our church life board, in our church stewardship board. Just imagine what God can do in us and through us if we'll take this leadership selection process

seriously. Does that excite anybody else? Because, see, friends it's not enough for me to talk about our mission. We need leaders. So will you please prayerfully take this seriously?

Some of you the Holy Spirit won't prompt you; that's ok. Don't write a name down then. Let's let the Spirit guide us and lead us and then let's look forward with hope and expectation to what God does through us as he surrounds us and fills us with a group of Christlike leaders to lead us in our church life board and church stewardship board.

Let's pray. Father, you know how my heart beats for this church. You know how I get excited about the future of our church and now I know how you have drilled into me these last six weeks how essential it is that people understand Godly leadership and they take this seriously. I've preached for six weeks and preached today and now I let go of the baton and ask you, Spirit of God, as you've been working through me, through your Word, now work through this process. Who is it in our church that you're putting your hand on? Who are you calling to be on the church life board, to be on the church stewardship board? Oh, God, make that clear. Start with this process of people writing names down, help our nominating committee to help hear from you. We pray that you would saturate this whole process with your presence and with your Word. We pray this boldly and with great hope in the name of the Father, in the name of the Son, and in the name of the Holy Spirit and all God's people said Amen. Amen. God bless you, you have two weeks to fill out if God leads you to a nominations form and get it back to us. You can do it online or do it on a hard copy. I look forward to how God leads us. Amen.