

The Positive Characteristics of Church Leaders

1 Timothy 3:2 / Titus 1:8

January 2, 2022

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Although God may not call you to a position of leadership in His church, every Christian should aspire to the biblical character traits given for a leader.

When it comes to spiritual leaders, go with character over giftedness every time. – John Kitchen

Strong Christians should be known for being...

I. **Level-headed.** (2c)

Gr: nephalios (nay-fal'-ee-os) (3x: 2x 1 Tim. / 1x Tit. 2)

Lexicon: separated from wine, sober.

vigilant (KJV)

Temperate: marked by moderation: such as

a: keeping or held within limits : not extreme or excessive : mild

b: moderate in indulgence of appetite or desire

c: moderate in the use of alcoholic beverages

II. **Of a sound mind.** (2d/8c)

Gr: sophron (so'-frone) (4x: 1x Tim./3 Tit.)

Lexicon:

1) of a sound mind, sane, in one's senses

2) curbing one's desires and impulses, self-controlled

As dead flies putrefy the perfumer's ointment, and cause it to give off a foul odor, so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor. (Ecclesiastes 10:1)

Prudent (NAS –Tim); sober (KJ-both); sensible (NAS/NEB - Titus); live wisely (NLT);

Self-controlled

III. **Worthy of respect** (2e)

Gr: kosmios (kos'-mee-os) (2x)

Lexicon: well arranged, seemly, modest

I also want women to dress modestly... (1 Timothy 2:9a)

Having a good reputation (NLT); **Respectable**

IV. **Welcoming and generous to guests** (2f/8a)

Gr: philoxenos (fil-ox'-en-os) (3x)

Lexicon: Literally a loving friend to strangers (phileo & xenos)

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. (1 Peter 4:9)

Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. (Romans 12:13)

We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth. (3 John 1:8)

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:1-2)

Hospitable

V. A capable teacher of the Scriptures (2g)

^{2g} Gr: Didaktikos (did-ak-tik-os') (2x, 2 Tim.)

Lexicon: Apt and skillful at teaching

An able teacher (NET); **Able to teach**

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. (James 3:1)

TITUS 1:8

VI. A friend of what is good (8b)

Gr: philagathos (fil-ag'-ath-os) (1x)

Lexicon: phileo & agathos: of good constitution or nature, excellent, distinguished, upright, honorable

Loving good men (KJV); Devoted to what is good (NET); **One who loves what is good**

VII. Striving to be righteous (8d)

^{8d} Gr: dikaios (dik'-ah-yos) (81x)

Lexicon: righteous, observing divine laws

1a) in a wide sense, upright, righteous, virtuous, keeping the commands of God

1a2) innocent, faultless, guiltless

1a3) used of him whose way of thinking, feeling, and acting is wholly conformed to the will of God

Just (KJV); **Upright**

VIII. Committed to godliness rather than worldly living

Gr: hosios (ho'-see-os) (8x)

Lexicon: Undeified by sin, free from wickedness, religiously observing every moral obligation, pure, holy, pious

Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed." (Revelation 15:4)

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." (1 Peter 1:15-16)

Devout/Holy

IX. Having strength over passions and appetites

^{8f} Gr: egkrates (eng-krat-ace') (1x)

Lexicon: having power over; to master, control, curb, and restrain one's self and passions

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)

Self-controlled (NET, NAS); temperate (KJV)

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:3-11)

Disciplined

How do we cultivate these excellent Christian Traits?

- **Evaluate yourself (ask others)**
- **Choose a weak area**
- **Pray for God to strengthen you (Holy Spirit)**
- **Be vigilant for slip-ups**
- **Memorize and meditate on relevant verses**
- **We must desire and discipline ourselves for spiritual growth**

Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37:4)