

The true shepherd spirit is an amalgam of many precious graces. He is hot with zeal, but he is not fiery with passion. He is gentle, and yet he rules his class. He is loving, but he does not wink at sin. He has power over the lambs, but he is not domineering or sharp. He has cheerfulness, but not levity; freedom, but not license; solemnity, but not gloom.

— CHARLES SPURGEON

• **Many church leaders fall prey to one or more of these sins:**

- **1. Idolatry** — they want to always be in control; especially in control of the lives of God’s sheep. No man in ministry can be a self-deified leader. No pastor could ever be a local version of the Pope. Some think of their own determination & their own reputation more than that of Christ’s exultation & His magnification!
- **2. Prayerlessness** — many are so busy with ministry they have no time for lengthy prayer. Trusting in themselves, they verbally coerce and bully their people into conformity. It’s easy to console oneself in saying that’s just busy doing ministry for God, these fleshly shepherds spend labor scolding, threatening, warning, confronting, counseling to get people to do their will.
 - To be little in prayer is to be full of self. To be slack in prayer is to be secure in self.
- **3. Unbelief** — Some leaders serve in church but really don’t believe that Christ is presently and actively LORD over His church. If I don’t make them do this, then who will? is the mindset.
- **4. Lack of love for the sheep** — the shepherd is awake, alert, vigilant, responsible, selfless and courageous. It’s easy to love to study, preach, teach, lead, strategize and conference-speak, and manage and not like the sheep.
- **5. Pride** — the guy feels as though God and the church needs HIM. He has an inflated sense of his own self importance. We hold our office by our Master’s pleasure to do HIS bidding, to further HIS kingdom and to build up and love and serve HIS children. This often manifests itself in anger, frustration, bitterness, resentment and slander against others who disagree with him. An angry leader is a prideful leader.

Leadership in Christ’s Church:

A few observations from Titus 1:5ff that we mentioned:

1. the need for godly leadership for church things to be in order (v.5a)
2. the appointing of church leaders by church leaders -- appoint elders was Titus’ work; a leader appointing elders (Not a vote, not majority opinion, not biggest giver, long-time member, prominent community man).
3. the *plurality* of men serving as elders (=plural)
4. those who serve as elders must be **men** (v.6a)
5. the apostolic directive to ensure godly, biblical church leadership (v.5b - as i directed you)
6. the understanding that every church leader is a **steward** of God (v.7a)

Background to Titus 1.5-9

- Titus 1 – Godly leadership; protecting sound doctrine
- Titus 2-3 – Godly living; practicing sound doctrine
 - *But here in 1.5-9 we’re dealing with *elder qualifications* -- who is to lead Christ’s people?*

THESIS — From titus 1:5-9 we will learn God’s blueprint for biblical church leadership.

He must be **Above Reproach** in 3 primary realms:

1. domestic piety (in the home) (6) - in the **HOME**
2. honorable character (7-8) - in the **HEART**
3. theological fidelity (9) - in the **WORD/ability**

From verse 7, we’ll see how he should be above reproach in his heart from the NEGATIVE viewpoint. Here are sins to avoid. If he is truly above reproach, then he must *NOT* have these sins describe his lifestyle:

1. Pride (NOT self willed)
2. Anger (NOT quick tempered)
3. Drunkenness (NOT addicted to wine; drunkard)
4. Quarreling (NOT pugnacious)
5. Greediness (NOT fond of sordid gain)

An above reproach pastor/elder must *NOT* be marked by...

I. NOT SELF-WILLED

II. NOT QUICK-TEMPERED

III. NOT ADDICTED TO WINE

IV. NOT PUGNACIOUS

V. NOT FOND OF SORDID GAIN

- It must be this way because elder/pastor/overseers are STEWARDS OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD.
 - We don’t want someone who is controlled by self will, quick temper, addicted to wine, pugnacious or fond of sordid gain to *RULE OUR house* — **neither does GOD.**
- And who models this perfectly, but the perfect leader: Jesus Christ, the LORD! He humbly came, laid down his life & died for us. Follow his example. **(1 Pet 2.21-25)!**

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD my Rock & my Redeemer” (Ps 19:13)

WHAT IF there is a pattern of sin in the man’s life that YOU have seen and are aware of. What should you do?

1. You must go to him – one on one – privately, humbly, and rather than accuse, seek to gather information (and make sure you understand the whole story, the whole situation). try to understand, – humbly, gently, tenderly.
2. If the information is true and he has this pattern of sin in his life, it may be worth pulling another elder in for counsel, guidance and help to come alongside of the sinning one.
3. If a man has persisted in unrepentant, ongoing sin, then he must be publicly rebuked *in the presence of the entire church* (1 Tim 5.20) so that sin would be exposed, God’s holiness would be upheld, the church would be purified, and believers would be fearful of sinning.
4. If a man has persisted in such a way for some length with willful, unrepentant, stubborn sin, then he is to be immediately removed from his office and aggressively pursued to repent and be restored to Christ, to the church, and to the Truth. The goal is NOT discipline it is restoration. The goal is not shame, it is unity and restoration.
5. The existing eldership team is to pursue him for ongoing biblical counseling and seek to engage in heart-change so as to see the Spirit of God work through His Word to bring change in the heart which will then lead to change in behavior. This should take place, ideally, in the context of his local church with his own elders who can counsel him (and his wife if applicable).

AND CAN IT BE?

And can it be that I should gain
 An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
 Died He for me, who caused His pain?
 For me, who Him to death pursued?
 Amazing love! how can it be
 That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above,
 So free, so infinite His grace;
 Emptied Himself of all but love,
 And bled for Adam's helpless race:
 'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
 For, O my God, it found out me.
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
 Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
 Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
 I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
 My chains fell off, my heart was free,
 I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

No condemnation now I dread;
 Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
 Alive in Him, my living Head,
 And clothed in righteousness Divine,
 Bold I approach the eternal throne,
 And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

I RUN TO CHRIST

I run to Christ when chased by fear
 And find a refuge sure.
 "Believe in me," His voice I hear;
 His words and wounds secure.
 I run to Christ when torn by grief
 And find abundant peace.
 "I too had tears," He gently speaks;
 Thus joy and sorrow meet.

I run to Christ when worn by life
 And find my soul refreshed.
 "Come unto Me," He calls through strife;
 Fatigue gives way to rest.
 I run to Christ when vexed by hell
 And find a mighty arm.
 "The Devil flees," the Scriptures tell;
 He roars, but cannot harm.

I run to Christ when stalked by sin
 And find a sure escape.
 "Deliver me," I cry to Him;
 Temptation yields to grace.
 I run to Christ when plagued by shame
 And find my one defense.
 "I bore God's wrath," He pleads my case—
 My Advocate and Friend.