

Biblical Leadership

Lesson designed by: Bob Turner

Course description: Part 5

This course continues to examine leadership, but now we turn to the New Testament. This class is not designed to exhaust all the possibilities associated with the leadership of Peter and Paul. Also, the brief references to elders and deacons in this course are only to introduce these areas of leadership in the church before a more in-depth study of the subject later.

Course Objectives: By the end of the class students will have:

- A. Looked at the leadership of Peter and Paul as it relates to leadership in the church today.
- B. Introduced the qualifications of elders and deacons in preparation for a thorough study of these qualifications in the future.

Outline of the class:

- A. Begin the class with a discussion of the various leaders talked in previous weeks: Moses, Joshua, David, and Nehemiah.
 - 1. While there are others that could be studied in the Old Testament, explain the importance of moving into a discussion about leadership as seen in the New Testament.
 - 2. We learned several lessons from men like Moses, Joshua, David, and Nehemiah, but we also need to consider what can be learned about leadership in the New Testament.
- B. Divide the class into three groups and assign one area below to each group and ask them to take 20 minutes to examine each one.
 - 1. The leadership of Peter (John 1:40-42; Matthew 14:22-33; 16:13-19; John 13:5-9; 36-38; Acts 2:14-38; 4:13-20; 5:27-32)
 - 2. The leadership of Paul (Acts 15:36-41; 20:27-38; Romans 1:14-16; 1 Corinthians 9:15-27; Philippians 3:1-17)
 - 3. The leadership of the church (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-5)
- C. After they are finished, ask each group to describe what they learned from the passages studied and list their answers on a whiteboard.
- D. A few suggestions to aid the teacher in guiding the discussion among the groups:
 - 1. Peter
 - a. Brought to Jesus by his brother, Andrew (what do we learn from Andrew?).

- b. He was impetuous and allowed fear to distract him.
 - c. He recognized Jesus as the Christ and was unafraid to acknowledge it.
 - d. He often spoke without giving thought to the implications of his words.
 - e. Once empowered with the Holy Spirit, he takes a stand to speak boldly about Jesus.
 - f. No fear of persecution and prays boldly.
2. Paul
- a. Committed to building up the church.
 - b. Builds up and instructs the elders at Ephesus and is unafraid of persecution.
 - c. Feels an indebtedness, eagerness, and confidence in the power of the gospel.
 - d. Willing to become all things to all men in order to save some.
 - e. Past heritage and credentials were meaningless in light of the value of knowing Christ – willing to suffer the loss of all things to know Him.
 - f. Kept his focus on the future.
3. Church
- a. Identify the qualifications, but do not discuss the meanings of the qualifications at this point. This discussion will come in future lessons.
 - b. Write out the contrasts between 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1 and 1 Peter 5 on a whiteboard and introduce why the lists are different.
 - c. More on recognizing these qualities in men in the congregation and how to help men grow into these qualities will be discussed in future lessons.

Conclusion:

- A. Leadership, as seen among these men and, the qualifications of those who serve as elders, requires an incredible understanding of commitment, zeal, confidence, and focus.
- B. Fear is a powerful factor when fulfilling the responsibilities God outlines for leaders, but that fear must not hinder the development of men to serve in these positions.
- C. As we will discuss in the weeks ahead, the qualifications described by Paul and Peter are critical for the direction of the church in the future. We need to not only understand what they mean, but we must also understand how they assist one to fulfill the role in the future. Reflect on what we've discussed today as we move into more study next week.