
1 Timothy 3:1 (NKJV)

¹ This *is* a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.

INTRODUCTION

In these next set of verses, Paul continues to show other ways in which the Corinthians were making judgments about church leaders that they simply were not qualified to make, which in turn can cause rifts in the body of Christ.

First, most Christians are judging at the wrong time as illustrated in verse 5 of this chapter.

The second reason why we make poor judges in this area is because we use the wrong measuring stick. We measure one brother against another, while the Bible already has a full set of requirements with which to determine what makes a good deacon or bishop or elder (I Tim. 3:2-13, Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:1-4; Acts 20:28-31; James 5:14).

The third reason we're not to judge in this area is because our judgments are not often based on the right or spiritual motives.

1 Corinthians 4:6-8 (NKJV)

⁶ Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.

⁷ For who makes you differ *from another*? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive *it*, why do you boast as if you had not received *it*?

⁸ You are already full! You are already rich! You have reigned as kings without us--and indeed I could wish you did reign, that we also might reign with you!

Vs. 6 – Paul has described to the Corinthians exactly what Paul and Apollos are and that they are no more or no less than described. Paul discovered that the Corinthians are not only measuring one brother against another, but are maintaining a false pride by their selection (our group's ministry is more holy than yours because....) and is admonishing them not to do that.

Vs. 7 – Paul asks three important questions for the Corinthians to answer honestly. The first question is: Who makes one of them uniquely different from any other? Of course the answer is God. So if the Corinthians don't get out of the judging business, they'll find themselves judging God's selections! Second, what spiritual gift does any Christian have that was not given to them by God? (Rom. 12, I Cor.12, & Eph. 4) Third, since our Spiritual gifts are from God, why should anyone have the right to brag or boast about the gifts except by giving glory and honor to God for them?

Vs. 8 – Paul uses some sarcasm to describe the Corinthians. This is the description the Corinthians had of themselves and Paul would really like it if God made them what they thought of themselves then he would benefit by their position.

- Carry the ultimate responsibility and authority to see that the church remains on a true biblical course; that its members are being appropriately shepherded, that the body is being fed through insightful and accurate biblical teaching, and that the life of the church is being well managed with the assistance of competent and godly leaders.
- Guard the body of Christ against harmful influences, confronting those who are contradicting biblical truth or continuing in a pattern of sinful behavior.
- Shepherd the church by being an example and role model.
- Care about the spiritual and physical well-being of members; pray regularly for the sick.
- Oversee the campus, all regional campus ministries
- Confront false teaching and behavior contradictory to biblical truth and implement appropriate church discipline
- Maintain the administration of Baptism and Communion as instituted by Christ
- Review and evaluate teaching and curricula for biblical accuracy and consistency with values (weekend services, classes, and sub-ministry materials)
- Implement and monitor compliance with board policy
- Mandate ministry to the poor and distressed
- **Shepherd the Flock**
- Participate (as needed) in the biblical process of conflict resolution outlined by Jesus in Matthew 18
- Direct people into appropriate processes for guidance, assistance, and problem resolution
- Respond to letters/phone calls from the church body, staff, or public
- **Manage the Church**
- Affirm the annual budget
- Encourage the senior pastor, his or her staff, and volunteers
- Conduct annual review of the senior pastor

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- Delegate to qualified assistants, staff, and/or outside experts as needed
 - Delegate to qualified teams:
 - Conciliation Team—oversees processes leading to conflict resolution
 - Elder Response Team—manages situations where people, particularly participating members, are experiencing significant relational difficulties or moral failure
 - Anointing Team—anooints those who are sick with oil for healing purposes
 - **Pray for the Sick**
 - Affirm the work of the Anointing Team
 - In special circumstances, visit participating members who are sick (at home or in the hospital) for private counsel