

PULPIT CURRICULUM First Baptist Church of Tyrone

Gospel-Shaped Leadership pt. 3

Titus 1:7-8

5-31-2026

Bible Reading

Titus 1:5-9 (ESV)

This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. For an overseer, as God’s steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

Observation Questions

1. According to Titus 1:7-8, what five negative patterns disqualify someone from eldership, and what six positive traits must they display instead?

2. If “above reproach” does not mean sinless perfection, what does it mean instead, and how is this demonstrated in a person’s life?

3. What is the difference between worldly leadership standards (e.g., charisma, influence) and God’s criteria for elders?

4. What does it mean for an elder to be a “steward” of God’s household, and how does this shape their responsibilities?

Interpretation Questions

1. Why do you think Paul prioritizes character traits like hospitality and self-control over skills or achievements when qualifying elders?

2. Disqualifying patterns like arrogance or greed “bend a man toward self and away from Christ.” How do these patterns specifically harm both the elder and the church?

3. The phrase “he must” in Titus 1:7-8 is called “nonnegotiable.” Why might God set such strict standards for leadership instead of allowing room for growth after appointment?

4. How does the idea of “direction, not perfection” reconcile with the high bar of being “above reproach”?

Application Questions

1. Which of the five negative patterns in Titus 1:7 (arrogance, quick temper, etc.) do you most struggle to avoid in your own life? What practical steps could help you grow in that area?

2. Hospitality is described as “loving strangers at real risk with nothing expected in return.” How could you practice this kind of radical hospitality in your current season of life?

3. There is a warning against using “Christian liberty” in ways that harm others (e.g., alcohol). Are there areas where your freedoms might unintentionally cause someone to stumble? How can you adjust?

4. If “a church eventually bears the shape of its leaders,” what qualities do you want to see emphasized in your own church’s leadership? How can you pray for or support them this week?

5. Reflect on the phrase “direction, not perfection.” What evidence of gospel-shaped growth (e.g., patience, holiness) can you identify in your life over the past year? What still needs attention?
