



## A LOOK AT CHURCH LEADERS (PART 3): ELDERS & DEACONS TEMPERAMENT

2 Timothy 4:9-18

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Good morning church! In the past, this church [like many] have had a plurality of Elders and Deacons. This church has seen Elders come and go and this church has had incredible preachers, some were good at Pastoral care, others were innovative and great in developing people, while others needed growth in some of these areas. Therefore, it becomes difficult to see the right perspective of what an Elder looks like if we only appoint and choose an Elder/Pastor based on experience or with our own agenda. So we must turn to the scriptures to see the Biblical perspective of how an Elder is raised up in the church, how an Elder called to ministry leadership, how an Elder must serve the church by leading in this position he has been appointed to.

### **2 Timothy 4:9-18**

*“Do your best to come to me soon. **10** For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. **11** Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. **12** Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. **13** When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. **14** Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. **15** Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. **16** At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! **17** But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. **18** The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”*

*A Healthy Elder/Pastor is a man who is...*

**1. Able to handle DISCOURAGEMENT and DISAPPOINTMENT.** (v 9-12)

## 2. Able to handle CONFLICT (v 11)

“And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, ‘Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.’ **37** Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. **38** But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. **39** And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, **40** but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.” **Acts 15:36-40**

*“If the two of us were the same, one of us is unnecessary.” — Ruth Graham*

## 3. Who KEEPS his word (v 13)

“Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. **2** And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, ‘It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. **3** Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. **4** But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.’ **5** And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. **6** These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.” **Acts 6:1-6**

## 4. Able to Handle PERSONAL Offense (v 15-18)

*“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.” Titus 1:9*

- EXAMINE yourself as a man who is called as Elder or Deacon.
- Pray for THOSE who are called as Elders or Deacons and to be more equipped.
- Pray that God would SEND more men to serve in these offices of this church.

The only way an Elder can develop this temperament is to go through seasons of discouragement, disappointment, mistreatment, and conflict. We should expect it Paul says, for this is a noble position not taken lightly but be encouraged to get up, do more, and preach some more. For this is how this temperament develops and the people of God benefit greatly.