

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*



Worship Guide for July 11, 2021

Sermon Notes

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore, an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. (1 Timothy 3:1-7)

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. (Titus 1:5-9)

Early in 2000 our church began the process of examining the Scriptures to see what is said about church leadership, specifically considering how the church should be led and who the leaders should be. For two years we studied, taught, prayed, and discussed what was written about Elders, deacons, roles, and responsibilities, and what this might look like at Westwood. In March of 2002, a proposal was presented to the members and in July of that year Westwood became a "Congregationally governed, Elder led" church. The first Elders were selected in September of that year and began serving in October.

Our church members are being asked to submit Elder nominations during the month of July, so it is appropriate that we take time to re-examine some key New Testament passages and be reminded of:

Why would a church have Elders?

Who/what are Elders?

What do Elders do?

In regard to our Elders, what is the role & responsibility of our members?

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Know

**What does God intend for me to know?
In your journal, use the following prompts to write
some truths that stood out from this week's message.**

I never knew...	I was reminded...	A question I still have...
I was challenged...	I was convicted...	A truth I could share...
I was encouraged to...		I need to dig deeper into...

Be (Consider)

**What does God's Word lead me to prayerfully consider?
In your journal, use the following questions to write
some prompts to use in praying through this week's passage.**

Is there a command to obey?	Am I convicted to confess any sin?
How am I compelled to exalt God?	Is there a sin to avoid?
Is there a promise to claim?	How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel?
Is there a principle to follow?	How can I pray for someone else?
Is there an example to follow?	What am I compelled to love or desire?

Do (Yield)

**How does God's Word call me to yield my life?
In your journal, write your answers and thoughts
in response to the following questions.**

As you consider the biblical qualifications for the role of elder, how does it compel you to pray for our elders in our particular context and culture?

What does it look like to aspire to the calling of an elder? How does Titus 2 help us understand what this aspiration looks like within the Body?

What is the most difficult aspect of "submitting?" Why must submission go hand in hand with active prayer?

*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's message & to prepare for Life Group.

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