

Sermon Title: “What is a Church Leader?”

Primary Text: Titus 1:5-9

As we saw on Sunday, when Paul wrote to Titus regarding Church Leadership he wasn't just talking about Elders, Deacons, and Pastors. We must as a local church live in community with one another so that we can see the transformation wrought by the Gospel in our lives and in the lives of those who have been called to lead. As **Hebrews 13:17** reminds us, these leaders have been charged to watch over the souls of the church – as protectors and defenders of the Gospel.

While Titus has been rightly described as a manual for church leaders (as are the other “Pastoral Epistles”), we saw on Sunday that as we look at the qualifications for leadership we see the qualities that every mature believer should display. When we look at our elders, deacons, and pastors we should see models of how God works in believers as they grow and mature through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. Like our leaders, we should all aspire to be protectors and defenders of the faith and right belief (Sound Doctrine)!

One of the most important take-aways from our study in Titus 1:5-9 should be that our Present Reality is not our Past History. If we truly believe that the Gospel is transformative, we rejoice that who we *were* and who we *are* are not the same. Praise God for stories of the Apostle Peter (redeemed after his denial of Christ), Augustine of Hippo, John Newton, and myriad more! Our hope in the Gospel is that God doesn't leave us where we were, but through the work of the spirit transforms us into Jesus' image!

Beyond our main text, Pastor Zach referenced these passages:

1 Peter 5:1-3 Acts 6; 20:28 Hebrews 13:7, 17 Galatians 5:22-23 1 Timothy 3:6

Questions to Consider this week:

- When you think about the charge in **Hebrews 13:17** to submit to leadership, does that cause anxiety or frustration for you? If so, why?
- Look at the qualities that are listed in **Titus 1:6-8**. Are there areas you have seen growth in over the past year? What areas do you need to bring before God to improve?
- Pastor Zach said multiple times on Sunday that the local church *must* live in community. The reason on Sunday was so that we can see if our leaders *do* live in ways that fulfil those qualifications, but that is not the *only* reason we live in community. Can you think of areas you see good community here at FaithEFC? How can you help foster that community in Fall Creek?
- As you think about the roles of **Deacon** and **Elder**, why is character important for both those who “Serve by Leading” and those who “Lead by Serving?”

Prayer

*Lord Jesus, Thank you for providing leaders for your Church throughout history – and we thank you for the leaders in our local church today. Protect them as prayerfully watch over the people at the church, myself included. Show me where I need to be a better church **member** under our church **leaders**. In all things, let my conduct in the church and in the community bring Glory to Your name!*
-AMEN

Song for Personal Worship

“His Mercy is More” (Matt Bosewell, Matt Papa, Sing!)

<https://youtu.be/hxOApooUSFI?si=NhRyjBn3eYvM3Zdx>