

QUALIFICATION #3 -- Committed to Faithful Fatherhood

Sunday, April 29, 2018 -- Titus Series -- Msg 11 -- Pastor Ben Nistor

Titus 1:5-9

English Standard Version (ESV)

5 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— 6 **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.** 7 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, 8 but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. 9 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.

REVIEW:

1. The Apostle Paul and Titus served the Lord together for many years proclaiming the Gospel and establishing local churches everywhere they went.
2. They constantly had to deal with false teachers, false doctrines, ungodly/worldly behavior and left-over bondage to the Mosaic law (Judaism).
3. Paul's first concern for Titus is establishing godly leadership in the churches of Crete.
4. Qualifications for elders/pastors/spiritual leaders are given in 1st Timothy and Titus.
5. BOTH lists begin with the overarching quality of having an upright reputation.
Specifically... 'above reproach'

TWO COMMON INTERPRETATIONS OF TITUS 1:6

'tekna echon pista' = 'children having belief' OR 'children having faithfulness'

New American Standard (NASB): 'having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.'

King James Version (KJV): 'having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.'

COMPARING 1 TIMOTHY 3:4 AND TITUS 1:6

1 Timothy 3:4-5:

He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?

Titus 1:6b-7a

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.

Both interpretations agree that a man must exercise spiritual leadership in the home if he is to exercise spiritual leadership in the church. The home is the proving ground of effective spiritual leadership.

A pastor with children will do whatever is necessary to nurture his children in obedient behavior and saving faith. This is what it means for a pastor to be committed to faithful fatherhood.

THE EXAMPLE OF FAITHFUL FATHERHOOD IN GOD

1) God is the eternally perfect Father

Exod 4:22-23; Deut 1:31 ; 8:5 ; 14:1; 32:6; 2 Sam 7:14; 1 Chron 17:13; 22:10; 28:6; Psalm 68:5; 89:26; 103:13 ; Isa 63:16; 64:8; Jeremiah 3:4, 19, 22 ; 31:9 , 20; Hosea 11:1-4; Mal 1:6; 2:10; 3:17

Jesus refers to God as 'Father' over 165 times in the Gospels!

He is the First Person of the Trinity (God as "Father" over 40 times in Apostle Paul's letters!)

He is the Creator of all people (Deut. 32:6; Eph. 3:14-15)

He is the Provider of all the universe (1 Chron. 29:11-12 ; Ps. 24:1; Matt. 10:29)

2) God is the graciously good Father

Ex. 34: 6-7; Jer. 32:39-42; Rom. 8:12-16; Gal. 4:1-7; Eph. 1:3-14; Heb. 12:3-11

THE CALL TO FAITHFUL FATHERHOOD IN THE SCRIPTURES

1) Faithful fathers understand that masculine identity is rooted in creation

Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:15 give us the working definition of masculine identity:

A man is to...

- bear the image of God
- have dominion over and subdue creation
- partner with his wife to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth
- work and keep the the Garden of Eden
- obey God's commands (and impart them to his family) lest he and his family die

2) Faithful fathers understand that having authority always goes hand-in-hand with fulfilling responsibility

A faithful, responsible father...

- modeled faith and commitment to God (Gen. 6:9; 17:1-7; Josh. 24:15; 2 Kings 18:3)
- reminded his family of God's salvation by leading them to observe festivals (Ex. 12:1-20; Deut. 16:9-17)
- celebrated the traditions of the exodus (Deut. 6:4-9, 20-25; 11:18-25)
- managed land and possessions according to the law of God (Lev. 25)
- provided for his family's food, shelter, clothing, spirituality and rest (Job 1:4-5; Matt. 7:11; 1 Tim. 5:8)
- protected his family from threats (Judg. 18:21-25)
- served as a representative for his family at the gathering assembly of Israel (Ruth 4:1-11)
- maintained peace among his family members' (Gen. 13)
- made personal decisions that would benefit his family and society (Josh. 24:14-15)
- consecrated his firstborn to God (Ex. 13:2, 12-15; Num. 3:11-13)
- delighted in and loved his children compassionately (Ps. 103:13; Prov. 3:12; Hos. 11:1-4)
- guarded his own reputation to not bring shame to his children (Ex. 20:5; Deut. 5:9)
- taught his children wisdom (Proverbs 1-9)
- disciplined his children so that they could learn obedience (Deut 21:18-21; Prov 22:15; 23:13)
- ensured an inheritance for coming generations (Proverbs 13:22)
- warded off unsuitable male suitors from his daughter (Ex. 22:16-17; Deut. 22:13-21)

THE GOAL OF FAITHFUL FATHERHOOD IN THE CHURCH TODAY

1) Sheridan Hills must grasp that faithful fatherhood (or lack thereof) is a spiritual issue

Mark 10:28-31; 1 Cor. 4:14-17; Gal. 4:16-20; 1 Thess. 2:7, 11; 5:5; 1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:18; 2:1; Titus 1:4; 1 Pet. 3:6; 1 John 2: 1, 12, 13, 18, 28; 3:1, 2, 7, 10, 18; 4:4; 5:2, 21; 2 John 1:1, 4, 13; 3 John 1:4

2) Sheridan Hills must seek men who are faithful fathers at home to provide spiritual leadership in church

3) Sheridan Hills must pray for our pastors, deacons, and spiritual leaders to be faithful fathers