

Titus 1:5-8/II Timothy 2:1-3

The Holy Exchange

Background Scriptures: [I Timothy 4:13-16]: *Until I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate on these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed to thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt save both thyself, and them that hear thee.*

Note: Living a holy life (**vs.12**), remaining sensitive to the Spirit's operation and gifts (**vs.14; 1:8**), teaching sound doctrine (**vs. 13, 15-16**), guarding the faith (**6:20; II Timothy 1:13-14**) and watching over one's spiritual life (**vs.16**) are more than a ministerial obligation for Timothy. These things are essential for his own salvation (present and future) and for those to whom he ministers (**II Timothy 3:13-15**).

"Be thou an Example" This is one of the most important qualifications for a church leader. The Greek word translated "example" is {Tupos}, meaning "model," "image," "ideal," or "pattern." A pastor, above all else, must be a model of faithfulness, purity and perseverance in godly living. The office of overseer may be occupied only by those of whom the church can say, "This leader has lived a godly life worthy of emulation.

Holy Exchange-I

[II Timothy 2:24-26]: *And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient. In meekness instruction those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.*

Holy Exchange-II

[Ephesians 4:14-16]: *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: Form whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

Holy Exchange-III

[I Corinthians 9:18-23]: *what is my reward then? Verily that when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.*

For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I may gain the that are under the law. To them that are without law, (being not without the to God, but under the law to Christ), that I may gain them that are without the law. To the weak, I became as weak, that I may gain the weak; I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.

Note: Paul uses himself as an example of the principle of self-denial for the sake of others. He renounces his rights out of sympathetic consideration for the convictions of others (**Romans 14:15-21**), in order not to limit his ministry or hinder the gospel (**vs.12**). This practice does not mean that Paul compromises Christian principles or seeks to please others for the purpose of winning their esteem (**Galatians 1:8-10**).

What he affirms is that he is prepared to conform to the convictions of those whom he is trying to help, provided Christian principles are violated. He understands that if he offends others by disregarding the convictions of their conscience, his ministry to them for Christ's sake could be seriously hindered.

Final Thought: But speak the things which become sound doctrine: that the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women, likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; that they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children. To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. **[Titus 2:3-5]**