



Qualifications and Responsibilities of a Board Director within Pure Heart Worship

"The saying is sure: If any one aspires to the office of bishop, he desires a noble task. Now a bishop must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, sensible, dignified, hospitable, an apt teacher, no drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, and no lover of money. He must manage his own household well, keeping his children submissive and respectful in every way; for if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how can he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may be puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil; moreover he must be well thought of by outsiders, or he may fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for gain; they must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then if they prove themselves blameless let them serve as deacons. The women likewise must be serious, no slanderers, but temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husband of one wife, and let them manage their children and their households well; for those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith which is in Christ Jesus." 1 Timothy 3:1-13 RSV

"For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of goodness, master of himself, upright, holy, and self-controlled; he must hold firm to the sure word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to confute those who contradict it." Titus 1:7-9 RSV

"Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified." Acts 20:28-32 RSV

In both historical and modern contexts, the role of a bishop (or overseer) holds significant importance within the Christian ecclesiastical hierarchy. The term bishop comes from the Greek word *episkopos*, meaning overseer or guardian. This article explores the qualifications, responsibilities, and spiritual significance of a bishop, through the lens of biblical teachings.

Qualifications

Blameless Character

One of the primary qualifications for a bishop is to be blameless. Titus 1:7-8 states, For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate.

Similarly, 1 Timothy 3:2-3 echoes this sentiment: A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous.

These passages emphasize that a bishop should be morally upright, restrained, and self-disciplined. Such blameless character is essential for someone who acts as a steward of God and a shepherd to His flock.

Teaching Aptitude

The ability to teach is another crucial qualification. 1 Timothy 3:2 mentions that a bishop should be apt to teach. This indicates not just the possession of knowledge, but also the capability to communicate that knowledge effectively to others. Teaching is foundational to this role, as bishops are responsible for the spiritual growth and doctrinal accuracy of their congregations.

Responsibilities

Shepherding the Flock

1 Peter 2:25 states, For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls. This metaphor underscores the shepherd-like role of a bishop, emphasizing guidance, care, and protection. Acts 20:28 further highlights this responsibility: Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

In essence, bishops are entrusted with the spiritual well-being of their congregations, directing them in the teachings of Christ and ensuring their care.

Stewardship and Governance

A bishop must also excel in stewardship and governance. Titus 1:7 refers to the bishop as "the steward of God," a term that denotes management and responsibility over the household of God. This role involves overseeing church activities, managing resources, and ensuring the faithful execution of ministry tasks.

Leading by Example

1 Peter 5:3 instructs bishops to lead Neither as being lords over God's heritage but being examples to the flock. The role involves exhibiting humility and servant leadership, setting a Christ-like example for others to follow. This aligns with the broader biblical principle of servant leadership, wherein leaders lead by serving, as modeled by Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

The role of a bishop in Christian doctrine is rich with spiritual meaning and practical responsibilities. Grounded in biblical qualifications such as blameless character, teaching ability, and stewardship, bishops are entrusted with guiding the spiritual journey of believers, mirroring Christ's ultimate role as the shepherd of souls. This biblical foundation underscores the enduring significance of the episcopal office in fostering strong, vibrant Christian communities.

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

"You are to be holy to me because I, the Lord, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own." Leviticus 20:26

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12:2

"For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the Lord has chosen you to be his treasured possession." Deuteronomy 14:2

"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight." Ephesians 1:4

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart." Jeremiah 1:5

"For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life." 1 Thessalonians 4:7

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Colossians 3:12

"But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'" 1 Peter 1:15-16

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God." Romans 12:1

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

ATTESTATION

I hereby understand and agree to adhere to the Biblical qualifications and requirements as stated herein.

To live a godly life, to be pure, to be holy and set apart to the best of my ability.

I understand that in the event that I cannot fulfill the duties as listed and required above that I would be renouncing my position on the board and it will be up to the discretion of the remaining board members whether I can apply to be reinstated at a later date.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Witness Signature

Date

Printed Name

Witness Signature

Date

Printed Name