

Healthy Church – Leaders Who Serve The Church

1 Timothy 3

How important is leadership?

- **“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” – Proverbs 29:18**
- **“Everything rises and falls on leadership.” – John Maxwell**
- **“A ship without a captain will drift.”**
- **“Leadership gives people direction, protection, & purpose.”**
- **“Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.” – Proverbs 11:14**

We have an **“abundance of counselors”** that make up our leadership here at BRC... Do you know what this leadership team is called? The Consistory

This team is made up of 3 ordained & installed offices... Do you know what those offices are? Minister of Word & Sacrament, Elder & Deacon

Do you know the names of those who serve in these offices here at BRC? Dan Toot, Vince Taddeo, Betty Shuster, Jim Niedermeyer, Karyn Gentile, Brian Coyne, David Morgan, Steph Beck, Mike Krajewski, Mike Schreiner, Gail Bindel

What do these people do (job description)? Let's play a game... M – E – D – C

- Who is responsible for preaching & teaching the Word of God? Minister
- Who is responsible for providing a minister(s) for a church? Consistory
- Who is set apart for a ministry of mercy, service, outreach? Deacons
- Who has oversight of all members (encouragement & discipline)? Elders
- Who provides for the welfare of the church? Consistory
- Who is to lead God's people in proclaiming good news, righteousness and peace? Consistory
- Who is called to faithfully, diligently and cheerfully visit and comfort the distressed? Deacons
- Who are called to faithfully, diligently and cheerfully encourage spiritual growth? Elders
- Who is responsible for starting and overseeing ministries? Consistory
- Who is responsible for providing services of worship? Consistory
- Who is responsible for supervising the election of elders & deacons? Consistory
- Who can request of the classis to terminate Pastor Dan? Consistory

This is some of what our leaders do, but there is something more important than their job description, & that is who they are and who they aspire to be!

Did you notice in 1 Timothy 3, that **the main focus is not the responsibilities of the leader, but their qualities?** The qualifications of elders/deacons

- Jesus said in **Matthew 20:26 - “Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant.”**
- **“People buy into the leader before they buy into the vision!”**
- **“People may follow your vision, but they will imitate your character.”**
- **“Students don't take courses here, they take professors!”**
- **“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.”**

Elder/Overseer qualities: *above reproach... 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... manages his own household well... care for God's church... keeping his children submissive... not a recent convert... well thought of by outsiders...*

Deacon qualities: *dignified... not double-tongued... not addicted to much wine... not greedy for dishonest gain... clear conscience... tested... blameless... husband of one wife... managing children & household well...*

- **“Before you are a leader, success is about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is about growing others.”** The order matters!

Leadership, especially in the church, is not about a position/job/tasks... it's about being an example/life/godliness!

- **“Our example is not the main thing in influencing/leading others. It is the only thing!”**

Vs. 16 – Godliness is the goal – both in the leader, and in those who follow! Paul calls godliness a mystery... but then points to Jesus Christ!

- **Mark 10:45 – “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**
- **John 13:14-15 – Jesus washed his disciples feet & said: “I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.”**
- **Philippians 2:5-8 – Jesus “emptied himself” and humbled himself, becoming obedient even to death on a cross.**

True leadership is found in Christ-likeness! If you aspire to be a leader, then follow well after Jesus! And then lead others to Him also!

“The function of leadership is to produce more leaders...” just like Jesus did!

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