Sermon Notes for August 4, 2013

The Need for Leadership

Titus 1:5-16

Introduction

The Costa Concordia

The church is like a ship sailing in dangerous waters. It takes solid godly leadership to stay the course, avoid the rocks and not abandon the ship.

I. The church needs leaders with godly character. Titus 1:5-8

Paul instructed Titus to appoint elders in every town.

What are the qualifications of an elder? Verses 6-8 are like I Timothy 3:1-7

- Blameless – having a good reputation inside and outside the church.
- The husband of but one wife - faithful in marriage.
- Children who believe – well behaved and respectful.

If a man can’t lead his family, how can he lead the church?

An elder is an overseer.

- Not overbearing – it’s not all about me.
- Not quick tempered
- Not given to drunkenness - overindulgent
- Not violent – not a striker
- Not pursuing dishonest gain – not in it for the money.

Instead, and elder is to be

- Hospitable – opening his home and his heart to others.
- Loves what is good – he strives for it.
- Self-controlled – manages himself well.
- Upright – lives according to God’s Word.
- Holy – devout and godly.
- Disciplined – like an athlete in training he studies the Scriptures and applies it to life.

Character matters!

The choices we make will affect generations to come.
II. The church needs leaders who stand on the truth of God’s Word. Titus 1:9-14

We need leaders who

- Know what they believe – “they must hold firmly to the trustworthy message they have been taught.”
- Able to teach – “so he can encourage others in sound doctrine.”
- Able to defend the gospel – “so he can refute those who oppose it.”

Anything that adds requirements to your salvation other than Jesus is a false gospel.

Biblical teaching and sound doctrine are essential to a healthy church.

III. The church needs leaders whose actions are consistent with their beliefs. Titus 1:15-16

For the believer all of life is meant to be enjoyed. In our enjoyment, we give thanks to God.

For the unbeliever, nothing is pure, because they do not know God.

The elders (leaders) in the church are to be men of good character, who love God, can teach the Scriptures and are an example to the flock.

Why is that important?

- We want to know that change is possible and that the gospel really does change lives.
- We need examples to follow.

Conclusion

We live in a toxic world and that affects all of us in the church.

Don’t give up. There is truth that leads to godliness. Walk in it.

Three questions to think about.

- Am I growing in Christlikeness?
- Am I growing in my knowledge of the Word and in sound doctrine?
- Are my actions consistent with the gospel?