



REFLECT: (20 minutes minimum)

9. If you were interviewing prospective elders for this congregation, what are some questions you'd like to ask them? What additional things that Paul doesn't mention do you think are important in a prospective elder? (*Leaders: Please pass along the group's comments and questions to Mike who will collate them and pass them on to the elders.*)

10. In many churches (including Laurel), there are not enough qualified men who are willing to serve as elders. What can we do to change that in the future?

11. In other congregations you've attended, how did they go about selecting elders? How did that work out? Is there a "right way" to select elders?

12. How is church leadership different from leadership in the military? Corporate world? Government?

13. Three Questions for prayer and action this week (Read through the rest of this question together but do **NOT** answer them out loud in Life Group).
 1. In our congregation, whom do you respect enough to follow and obey as an elder?
 2. From whom have you learned the Word of God? Who has taught you Scripture and doctrine privately or publicly?
 3. To whom would you go if you needed counseling in your spiritual life? Who has ministered to you in a "pastoral" way?

After you've prayed for these men and if their lives reflect the values of 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, approach them individually and let them know you'd like to see them serve as a shepherd of this church.



May 23, 2010

THE HEART OF A SHEPHERD

1 Timothy 3:1-7 & Titus 1:5-9

NOTE: We will **NOT** discuss in this group today individuals that we think would be good elders. We want to discuss the biblical texts, reflect privately on who might be such a person those texts describe, pray about it this week and talk with those individuals personally to encourage them to consider serving in this way.

OPEN: (2 minutes)



1. Leadership is...

2. The best teacher I ever had was...





Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7 & Titus 1:5-9

3. Of all the qualities for elders mentioned by Paul in these verses, are there any that the “average” Christian shouldn’t also aspire to have in their own life? If so, which ones?
4. **What insights do the different words for “elder” (shepherd, presbyter, steward, pastor, overseer/bishop and elder) give you into the role or work of elders?**
5. In your experience, do we pay more attention to some of the qualities Paul lists than others when we’re selecting elders? If so, which ones? Why?
6. **How might some of what Paul says be applied in different churches or cultural settings?** (Would “new convert” mean different things in different churches? Would some churches only appoint men in their 60s or 70s as elders and others would appoint much younger men? Would his admonition about alcohol have the same impact in France as in the Bible Belt? *These are just examples to get your discussion started!*)
7. What does the Bible say about the process for appointing elders? About the duration of their service? Are there some things that are left to our judgment?
8. **Some of the qualities Paul lists are harder to understand today than others. Which ones do you want to know more about? Feel free to *lovingly* and *patiently* discuss your understandings of any of these items.**

Holiday weekend:

Next weekend is the Memorial Day holiday weekend. Be sure to discuss who will and won’t be in town. Don’t let a smaller attendance become an excuse to cancel unless absolutely necessary. Some of our best discussions happen in smaller groups.