

Church Leadership

(2) The Challenge of a Leader

Timothy, the young pastor of the church of Ephesus, needed coaching on church leadership. Paul's instructions about Elder *qualifications* (ITim.3) were to address a crisis at Ephesus. But first, Paul addresses one of the key *functions* of the Elders/leadership

What was happening at the church of Ephesus...ITim.1

What was the specific reason Paul *implored* Timothy to remain at Ephesus? vs.3

So that Timothy might command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer.

What is implied by 'any longer' (NIV)? What may be the reason Paul 'implored'? IITim.1:7; 4:12

The false teaching was happening. Maybe Timothy was ready to leave, vs 'demand'?

What was the general content of their false teaching? vs.4, 7

Myths, endless genealogies, striving to be teachers of the law. Never really understood...

Is Paul prohibiting teaching the law? vs.8-10 see Gal.3:24

No! He's condemning the improper use of the law. Our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ.

What does Paul urge Timothy to do in verse 19a? Titus 1:9

To hold on to faith and a good conscience, so as to fight the good fight!

And were all the leaders at Ephesus following this admonition? vs.19b consequences? 4:1-2

Unfortunately, no. Some rejected and thereby had shipwrecked their faith...

What terrifying action had Paul taken re Hymenaeus and Alexander? IITim.2:15-18 ICor.5:5

He handed them over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme. Leaders, teachers, ...

What is the underlying principle in all of this? IITim.2:15; 3:13-17

Elders, church leadership, are responsible for doctrinal purity. If not them, then who??

What additional challenge to the elders was occurring at Ephesus? 2:11-12

The leadership position was being usurped by women in the church. Not God's design.

How did the Elders at Ephesus do?...Rev.2:1-7

Some 25 years later, how is the church of Ephesus rated? Rev.2:1-3

They had done well in keeping out the false teachers. Persevered. Hard work...

But in their zeal, what had happened? 2:4

They had left (forsaken) their first love, Christ. Can't be perfect without love for Christ.

And what is the opposite extreme? 2:18-20

The church at Thyatira. Deeds, love, faith, service, but they tolerated false teaching.

What does all this tell us about the standards for every church? Rev.2:7

Great diligence required! It's hard work. Requires a balance between love and discipline.