
Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: <https://www.abfboone.com/sermons/>
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

Titus 1:5-9

[5] This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—[6] if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. [7] For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, [8] but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. [9] He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

Sermon Outline:

1. Elder Character Observed in Family (6)
2. Elder Character Observed in Avoided Behaviors (7)
3. Elder Character Observed in Pursued Behavior (8-9)

Life Group Leader Notes:



Weekly Discussion Guide

- In the introduction, Pastor Scott mentioned four common leadership structures: the episcopal, congregational, CEO/Senior Pastor, and the Elder/Presbyterian. We are an elder led church. (You can see the list of elders here: <https://www.abfboone.com/leadership/>). What is your church background? Have you been in a church with a different leadership structure? What are the strengths and weaknesses of each model? Pastor Scott said that the plurality of elders is the most biblical model. Where would you go in the Bible to support this model of leadership?
- Though Paul is instructing Titus on church leadership, this sermon was not simply aimed at the 19 elders at ABF. The qualifications of leadership are qualities that every believer needs to aim for. So, this sermon was for every Christian. As Pastor Scott mentioned from the Gospel Coalition article, “every elder is an elder before he is an elder.” Where were you convicted this week? Are there areas in your life that need attention? How do you plan on addressing these issues?
- The qualifications of elders were broken into 3 categories. The first one dealt with the elder’s **family life**. As Pastor Scott said, who you are in the home is who you really are. Why is it so easy for us to let our guard down in the home? Are there areas in your home life where you are inconsistent? What does it look like to be a godly husband and father? Why is it important for a church to be led by godly husbands and fathers?
 - For married couples, how did you receive the instruction to be committed to your vows and spouse? Are there areas where you need to grow? Are there areas where you need to confess? Are there any acts, or attitudes, of adultery? (This is a very important topic, but it is a sensitive topic, especially in a group setting. It might be helpful to bring it up, but to let your group know that you are willing to talk about this in private outside of the group. If you as a leader need to discuss this with someone, the elders are willing to walk through this with you).
 - For parents, how did you receive the instruction on raising godly, obedient children?
- The second category dealt with **behaviors avoided**. Elders, and every believer, must be able to say “no” to sin and addictive behaviors. Were you convicted in any of these qualifications?
 - Do you always try to get your own way? Can you easily point to an example of a time when you gave up control of something you wanted for the sake of someone else?
 - Would your coworkers or kids say that you have a quick temper? If so, what do you need to do about that?
 - If someone were to look at your bank account, would they say that you are greedy for gain or generous?
 - Have you ever said, “I need a drink?” How might that be a warning sign for you? What do you need to do about that?
- The final category dealt with **behaviors pursued**. Elders must not simply avoid sin, but must also pursue righteousness. Were you convicted in any of these areas?
 - How many people outside of your immediate family know what your house looks like? How can you take steps to grow?
 - Do you have a growing commitment to the word of God? Would you back off of your commitment to the word to save a relationship? To save a job? To save your life?
- Pastor Scott closed with a strong quote from Stephen Lawson. *There are two types of pastors: those who preach the word and those who need to resign.* How can our church, and your life group, continue to be committed to the word?

