“God’s Steward”

Intro: As we come to our third teaching of Titus we find the list of pastoral qualifications. It is important that we understand these well, making sure that the pastors under whose teaching and example we sit are biblically qualified. This cannot be overstated for the ________________ of Christ, the spiritual well-being of the church, and the measure of our ________________ is dependent upon our pastors being men whom God truly called and who prove His calling as they meet these qualifications. This issue is of extreme importance as it concerns the glory ________________ in His church.

A. As we study the list of qualifications in Titus 1:6-9 we learn that to be biblically qualified a pastor must be ________________ as he is deserving of a good reputation (vs. 6); dead to selfish desires (vs. 7), and alive to God in deed (v. 8) and doctrine (v. 9).

I. A biblically qualified pastor must be Christ-like; a true and ________________ Christian in life, practice and ministry.

A. A God-ordained elder is ________________ of a good reputation.

1. A true God-called pastor will be a man who is above reproach / _________________. There will be no evil, on-going sin, or shameful Christ-dishonoring thing in his life that he can be justly called to account for.

2. The man who is ordained and qualified of God to pastor is ________________ pure in thought, word and life. Whether married or not he is faithful to God and will be ________________ to Christ’s church as is demonstrated in his moral faithfulness.

3. The man who is called of God to be an elder will have ________________ who believe in Christ, whose lives are mark by the obedience ________________.

B. The ordained of God are ________________ish desires, being God’s steward.

1. The ________________ is the household of God and the pastor is ________________ steward. The overseer who is above reproach knows he is not the owner of the church but the Owner’s steward to whom he is devoted and will give an account. Being Christ-like the pastor does not seek his own!

2. He is ________-willed. As the term translated self-willed denotes pastors do not rule in arrogant self-interest. He does not serve to be served. Their motto is: “Not my will _____ ________________ be done!”

3. He is _____ quick-tempered. He is not characterized by outbursts of anger, nor known to have a ________________ ________________.
4. He is _______ to wine. He is not a drunkard nor given to any mind altering substance. Rather he is filled and _______ the _________.

5. He is _______ pugnacious. That is, he is not a fist-fighter, given to either verbal or physical ____________________

6. He must _______ be fond of _______________ gain.

C. The qualified elder is alive to ________ in ____________.

1. Those whom God ordained to be a pastor-elder of Christ’s church __________________ the love of Christ both spiritually and materially to friend and stranger alike; delightfully love what is good and virtuous before God; are of a sound righteous mind; are just, fair and equitable; _______________ to the will of Christ for His church; and self-controlled by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

D. The qualified elder is ______________ to God in ______________.

1. The biblically qualified pastor is a tenaciously dedicated Biblicist, who by faith in Christ clings to the ________ of God with all that is in him. He accurately holds to the true Word of God so he is equipped to faithfully ________________ and defend the sound doctrine of ________________.

Closing: The biblically qualified pastor is Christ-like as he is deserving of a good reputation, dead to selfish desires, and alive to God in deed and doctrine. And where the pastor is not biblically ________________ the Bible will not be preached and the church will not be Christ-centered, and a church that is not Christ-centered is not a true Christian church. Pastors are God’s ________________.

Now, what about you _______ is the most important factor in you choosing to attend the church you do? Whether you attend here or choose to attend elsewhere or move away, may it be that the most important factor in choosing a church is not the music, the style of preaching, the ministries or the doctrinal persuasion but may the issue of first importance be that the pastors are biblically qualified. For if the pastors are truly ordained and qualified of God then all of importance (music, doctrine, preaching) will fall in line, being ________________ _________________. And there you will be on safe ground as Christ is exalted in His church.

This is about the ________________ of ________________ in His church!

Heritage Christian Fellowship
11104 Menaul Blvd., NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112
505.323.0557 – www.heritageabq.org