

# Elders Are Leaders of Vision

## Introduction:

1. In studying the qualifications of elders, much about their required character is learned.
2. These character traits are needed for the work that is to be performed.
3. Clearly, the work of the eldership involves leadership.
4. True leaders must be men of vision.

- I. The Purpose of the Church (Ephesians 3:20-21)
  - A. The purpose of the church is to glorify God.
  - B. This is accomplished by engaging in and carrying out the work that God has instructed the church to do.
    1. Evangelism (Mark 16:15-16; etc.)
    2. Edification (Rom. 14:19; Heb. 10:24; 2 Tim. 2:2; etc.)
    3. Benevolence (Jam. 1:26; Gal. 6:10; etc.)
  - C. If the church is faithful in obedience to God, He will give the increase (1 Cor. 3:6; Isa. 55:11).
  - D. Too many times, these works are only seen as general goals with no specific plan or means to accomplish them.
    1. "Let's leave well-enough alone."
    2. "If it isn't broke, don't fix it."
  - E. Christians and congregations need to be asking continually three questions...
    1. Where are we?
    2. Where do we want (or need) to go?
    3. How do we get there?
  - F. It is the role of leaders to exercise vision for the future of the congregation (1 Cor. 15:58).
    1. We must not be content to drift from Sunday to Sunday.
    2. To fail to plan is to plan to fail!
    3. We ought to plan for the future according to the Lord's will (Jam. 4:13-15).

- II. The Need of Vision (Daniel 2:44)
  - A. "If you don't know where you're going, you might end up someplace else" (Yogi Berra).
  - B. Jehovah is a God of vision, looking into and planning for the future.
    1. From the foundation of the world (Matt. 25:34; Eph. 1:4; etc.)
    2. The church of God's dreams (Daniel 2:44)
  - C. Men of faith have always been men of vision.
    1. Abraham (Hebrews 11:10)
    2. David (1 Chronicles 17)

3. Paul (Romans 1:9-13)
  4. Jesus (Matt. 16:18; Acts 1:8)
- D. Though they saw the world as it was, they also looked with hope at what it could become!
- E. The church needs elders with vision!
1. To see the church 1, 5, 10, even 25 years in the future
  2. To leave a dream for generations to come

III. The Gaining of Vision (Mark 8:18, 22-25)

- A. In order gain vision, the blind man needed both the physical ability to see and the mental perception to focus and understand.
- B. Likewise, there are two things required for leading with vision.
1. God has given us the ability to contemplate the present and the future.
  2. He has provided His Word which brings our vision into focus and into harmony with His will.
- C. The vision for the church must be based upon God's Word.
1. What is the purpose of the church?
  2. What is the plan for the church?
  3. What is the work of the church?
  4. What are the goals of the church?
- D. The vision for the church must begin in reality.
1. Where do we stand in relation to God's desire for the church?
  2. What are the strengths of the congregation?
  3. What are the weaknesses of the congregation?
  4. What is the character of the community where we live?
  5. If we remain on our current path, where will we be in 10 years?
- E. The vision for the church must plan for the future.
1. Where do we want to be in \_\_ years?
  2. What do we want to have accomplished in that time?
- F. The vision for the church must set goals.
1. Big goals are achieved by first reaching smaller goals.
  2. Goals should be specific enough to clarify our purpose.
  3. Goals should be simple enough to be achievable.
  4. Goals should be challenging enough to promote growth.
  5. Goals should be limited enough to be measurable.
- G. Consider the example of Paul...
1. His major goal was to reach Heaven (Phil. 3:14).
  2. To reach that goal he needed accomplish simpler successes (2 Tim. 4:7).
  3. Those goals were broken down into works that could be clearly accomplished (Acts 15:36; etc.).
- H. With vision, planning, and prayer, the church can fulfill its purpose and bring glory to God (cf. Luke 14:28-30; James 1:5; 1 John 5:14-15).