

GA: W/Privilege comes responsibility—**1 Kgs 15:5** *For David did what was right in the LORD's sight, & he did not turn aside from anything he had commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hethite.* **Neh 13:26** *There was not a king like Solomon among many nations. He was loved by his Θ , & Θ made him king over all Israel, yet foreign women drew him into sin.*

SI: Responsibility. Obligation. Calling. Integrity. Faithfulness. Example.

ORT/NEED: What about the pastor? Θ 's leadership standard is high. **1 Cor 9:27** *Instead, I discipline my body & bring it under strict control, so that after preaching to others, I myself will not be disqualified.*

SUM: There is a church where you belong & one worth belonging to. Core commitments of that kind of church. It is a church committed to Θ 's:

- Mastery over themselves.
- Mission above all else.
- Message of divine revelation.
- Means of fulfilling the ministry.
- People & their well-being.

CXT: 2 things Θ makes clear in this text. **1)** You have every right to know what to expect from your pastor, **2)** Leaders show people how to live, by giving an example. **1 Cor 11:1** *Imitate me, as I also imitate X.*

CIT: It's not the preacher's job to fill the pew, it's his job to fill the pulpit.

CIS: The faithful pastor both fills and fulfills the pulpit.

- Reminder – ensure church was provided w/qualified leadership.

5 The reason I left you in Crete was to **set right** *straighten out* what was left undone &, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town.

- **B**ones need fixin'— *epidiorthōsē* teeth need straighten' out.
- *Put what remained into order & appoint elders.*
 - 1) Make converts thru preaching the gospel.
 - 2) Strengthen new believers thru discipleship, & instruction.
 - 3) **Appoint pastors/elder(s).**
- This is not understood as a self-perpetuating eldership. How?

- 1) **CL** recognizes a need for an office to be filled.
- 2) **CL** calls on the congregation—they select qualified candidates.
- 3) **CL** prays & lays hands on candidates to install into office.

- 4 verses give us divinely revealed non-negotiables for pastors.

PNP: 4 areas that give clear public witness to fulfilling the pulpit.

The faithful pastor must be blameless in public.

6a An elder must be blameless,

- Above reproach—not open to legitimate attack, no charge.

The faithful pastor must be blameless at home.

6b the husband of one wife, w/faithful ^{P-trustworthy} children ^{A-believers} who are not accused of wildness ^{prodigality} or rebellion ^{won't submit to authority}.

- “One woman man.” Exemplary faithfulness & devotion to wife.
- If he cannot win his own children, how can he win yours?
- If he cannot love/lead like X, how can he love/lead X’s bride?

Many a ministry has been built at the expense of a home. **A.W. Tozer** *The Pursuit of God* **Aiden loved IX but Leonard Odam loves me.** **J. Wesley** *I hope I shall see your wicked face no more.*—Latin—**Mr. Wesley**, your wife is dead. & he looked down & said, *Oh, she died, did she?* *He must not allow the ministry of the Lord to eclipse the Lord of the ministry.*

The faithful pastor must be blameless in character.

7 As an overseer of Θ 's household *oikonomos* (steward – faithful), he must be blameless, not arrogant, not hot-tempered, not an excessive drinker, not a bully, not greedy for money, **8** but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, righteous, holy, self-controlled,

- He must not exhibit these **5 negative traits**:
 - 1) Arrogance – prideful, self-willed, stubborn.
 - 2) Quick-tempered – inclined to anger, short fuse.
 - 3) A drunkard, *paraoinos*.
 - 4) Violent – brawler, pugnacious (physical & verbal).
 - 5) Greedy for money – lover of money.
- He must possess these **6 positive traits**:
 - 1) Hospitable – an open home (*philoxenos*).

Lk 14:12-14 *He also said to the one who had invited him, “When you give a lunch or a dinner, don’t invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors, because they might invite you back, & you would be repaid. On the contrary, when you host a banquet, invite those who are poor, maimed, lame, or blind. & you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.*

- 2) Loving what is good – lover of good. Not merely loving the right thing but doing the right thing.
- 3) Sensible – self-controlled. Not by passions, lust, or idolatry.
- 4) Righteous – upright (lives according to righteous standard).
- 5) Holy – not “set apart.” *Hosios* – devout, pious, pleasing to Θ.
- 6) Self-controlled – disciplined (emotions, impulses, desires under control by the **S**).

The faithful pastor must be blameless with the Word.

9 holding to the faithful message as taught, **so that** he will be able both to encourage w/sound teaching & to refute those who contradict it.

- **vv6-8** what he is called to *be*—**v9** what he is called to *do*.
 - **Preaching** – intent (move the will of the hearer to respond). It involves admonition & exhortation.
 - **Teaching** – intent (cause the mind of the hearer to understand). Involves illumination & explanation.
- Sound – *hygiene*. Apart from truth, there is no health!
- Hold fast to sound teaching to instruct – feed the sheep. –
- Hold fast to sound teaching to confront – protect the sheep. +

CIS: The faithful pastor both fills and fulfills the pulpit.

CEP: The pastor must be a model of moral & spiritual character. *Take heed to yourselves, lest your example contradict your doctrine.... Lest you unsay w/your lives what you say w/your tongues; & be the greatest hinderers of the success of your own labors.* **R. Baxter TReformedP**

G: **v9**. If I preached a message w/o **JX** I may as well be in a mosque or a synagogue.

In a sense, it will be very hard for you today to not come to **JX**. You will have to