LOOKING FOR SHEPHERDS

A Study of **MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MAINTAIN UNITY** Ephesians 4:1-6 What Makes For A Worthy Life? [4:1-3] A worthy life will invest energy into God's unity plan. What We Must Be United On [4:4-6] "Unity in essentials, liberty in incidentals, & in all things love." In **Revelation**, Ephesus was praised for testing true apostles. What We Will NOT Be United In Eph 4 church leadership immediately follows the unity list. In 1 Timothy, Paul wants elders appointed at Ephesus.

Leadership In The New Testament

Overseer Virtues 2 Pet 1:5-11

Elde Being eager to obey, doesn't mean we're so desperate we'll ien).
S just pour or sprinkle, neither should we be so desperate we just appoint anyone. There will need to be grace-filled hard conversations about 1 Timothy 3 & Titus 1.

- 1) Biblically, they're human & humans sin. Think about this with Ephesus [Acts 20:17, 28-32].
 - To Timothy in Ephesus notice [1 Tim 5:17-25].
 - Paul presupposes elders will sin & some will *persist*! We must keep these rules *without partiality*.
 - Sins of some people take a while to become public.

1) Biblically, they're human & humans sin.

Think about this with Ephesus [Acts 20:17, 28-32]. Paul says some elders will persist in sin [1 Tim 5:17-25]! Jesus knew the OT religious leader track record. Expresses stern concern [Mt23:29-39;Mk12:24, 38-40] Even the apostle Peter joined in sin with Barnabas.

- 1) Biblically, they're human & humans sin.
 - Think about this with Ephesus [Acts 20:17, 28-32].
 - Paul says some elders will persist in sin [1 Tim 5:17-25]!
 - Jesus saw leader flaws: [Mt23:29-39;Mk12:24, 38-40].

2) We aren't looking for perfection.

- We need grace filled assessment of self & others.
- Churches need humble realistic leaders, open to criticism.
 - This is a critical character trait of *maturing* elders.

- 1) Biblically, they're human & humans sin.
 - Ephesus heresy [Ac 20:28-32]. Persist in sin [1 Tim 5:17-25]!
- 2) We aren't looking for perfection. Grace-filled judgments. Biblical *maturing* elders will be humble & open to criticism.

3) Why is agreement hard on 1 Tim 3 & Titus 1 lists?

They aren't easily measured. People mis-use the lists. People aren't consistent in how they apply the standards. We're tempted to add reasons to some that aren't there. We've all been brought up with different experiences.

If Paul's emphasis serves as a summary, it's this:

1 Timothy 3

Therefore, an overseer must be **above reproach**, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach 3 not a drugkerd

not violent but gen money. ⁴ He must m all dignity keepin someone does n household, how w must not be a recen

Each letter has a unique Greek word behind it. Many translations say: *Blameless* (like Job). The same word is used in [1 Tim 5:7 & 6:14]. It's the goal for ALL saints in [Col 1:21-22].

Put things in order... If anyone is **above reproach**, the eek word behind it. *ameless* (like Job). **1 Tim 5:7** & 6:14]. in [Col 1:21-22].

up with conceit and <u>Tair into the concentration of the</u> devil. ⁷ Moreover, he must be **well thought of by outsiders**, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

Titus 1