

See service sheet online at www.knbc.org

Welcome

Opening Scripture	Ps
Hymn:	MP 76 Christ the Lord is risen
Reading:	Ps
Prayer:	Adoration and Praise
Video	The importance of the public reading of scripture
Main reading:	Titus 1:5-9
Hymn	676 There is no love like the love of Jesus
Sermon:	The godly minister
Hymn:	CH 433/455 Father of mercies bow thine ear tune: ombersley

Close -----

Listen to today's sermon by clicking on the link at www.knbc.org.

The audio file is [21_02_14.mp3](#).

Welcome and pray

- A freight train is sitting in a siding. The driver jumps down from his cab to inspect the long train before heading off. When he was some way down the train it momentarily jolted, then started to move. The track was on a slight decline, he turned and ran as fast as he could back to the cab but the train gathered pace and he didn't make it. This driverless train was heading at increasing speed towards other lines. Further down the track was a viaduct with a tight bend that had to be traversed at a lower speed. To exceed this speed would mean toppling over the viaduct and down onto the houses below.

A train without a driver is heading towards disaster. So a church without a leader is heading towards disaster.

That is why last time we saw how Paul directed Titus to appoint leaders. He said: **5 The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.**

This week we are to consider what kind of person they are to be.

- To put someone in charge of a train is one thing, but they need to know what they are doing. If they don't - there will be a disaster.

So with the church. What sort of people do they need to be? Are they qualified to lead? If not and they don't know what they are doing it can be equally disastrous. It's easy for the minister to drive the church over the edge.

The whole purpose of this letter 1:1 is **for the faith of God's elect.** -So leaders are entrusted with the precious task of caring for the faith of God's people.

God who loves his people sends them shepherds - those who are like us. He instructs Paul and Titus to ordain elders who will live with us, who know our culture, know the issues we face etc. they are the best help.

This faith is under attack from within and without. All Christians have the same inner weaknesses and the same outer foe. So the shepherds are to be those who've conquered themselves and have victory over the foe.

- ✚ **When Jesus came into this world: He came to his people to save them. When he ascended to heaven he now lives in his people to help them.**

Jesus, the great shepherd of his people, has ordained that each flock is to have its own shepherd. The apostles did not beget more apostles, as if there is some apostolic hierarchy. After they departed this world the work of leading was entrusted to elders. That's it.

Here Paul tells Titus who these shepherds are to be. - and whom not to be! Men who are able to lead their family, - to lead themselves - and who know God's word. They are in control of their homes, themselves, their minds.

You will find a similar list of qualifications for an elder in 1 Tim 3:1-12.

- ✚ **Blameless at Home, Blameless himself, Hold firmly the word of God Home, Heart, Hold.**

Blameless at home.

6 An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe

It doesn't say no wife as the RC nor does it say many wives as they did then and some still do. One wife and faithful to her.

Children should be obedient and good, brought up in the true Christian faith, and living according to it, at least as far as the endeavours of the parents can avail. Not that the children are born again believers, no parent can effect that. The word 'believers' would be better translated 'faithful'. In others words they are sympathetic to the things of God and of good character, hence the phrase **and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.**

In other words, it would be impossible to preach to others about self-control, faithfulness and leadership of the home - if my home and children are in disarray.

So too how could he be of good reputation with those around as I need to be if my children are known locally as complete rascals

¶ **An elder must be blameless** That is no-one can point the finger.

Instead he should be —**not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain.** § **Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.** We will come to these in a moment but....

Why is *hospitality* in the midst of this list of godly qualities, there is this line **§ he must be hospitable**, Why is that there? So everyone can see, this man is not to present a front - but have a life that is an open book.

Jesus when accused said I have done nothing in a corner, everything was done in the open, I was always preaching in the temple, you know my family ...

There is nothing like going into someone's home, having a meal, or spending the night to really understand what is going on. You cannot hide.

Elders, - and deacons – and all of us should practice the ancient kindness of hospitality. It is a basic way putting our faith into practice.

Lockdown aside - why do so few do this? It is a mystery. Is it because of not thinking and not caring. What God has blessed us with is to be used for the good of others not for me alone. Or is it because we don't want anyone to see our homes.

■ [Wondered why vicarages and rectories and manses are often large?](#)

[Because they expected to entertain strangers, put up the wayfarer.](#)

The man may be able to talk the talk in the pulpit but you can soon find out when he is with his family if he is **overbearing, quick-tempered, or given to drunkenness. Etc. The church shepherd must walk the talk.**

How can a man govern Christ's church described as **God's household**, 1Ti 3:15 if he cannot govern his own household.

Blameless in life

7 **Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless** the LORD appeared to Abraham and said, "**I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless.** Gen 17:1 **Noah** was blameless, So to **David**, excepting his sin with Bathsheba is described as one who was blameless in his walk with God. Job was blameless. Blameless too were Zachariah and Elizabeth.

Peter reminds us that God's people are to be blameless 2Pe 3:14

I have split the characteristics of the spiritual life into two categories first..

The self-controlled category

—**not overbearing, or self-willed.** Watch out if you are born with a strong will. When you chose your next pastor beware of those who show self-love, are self-seeking, who make self the centre of all, they will not help you for they will be always pulling back to themselves. Nabal was churlish, his jaw was set, he refused to help others because he was set on his own way.

not quick-tempered, - Short fuse? If you are prone to anger and - in the ministry you are in the wrong place.

■ [Like a bull in the proverbial china shop](#)

you don't want a hot head who cannot control himself. How can a man govern a church if he cannot govern himself!

The minister must be meek and gentle, and patient towards all men.

not given to drunkenness, - There should never be times when that person is worse for wear. There should never be a time which is the wrong time to ring or visit.

not violent, - I can't imagine a leader being violent, maybe with the tongue.

not pursuing dishonest gain. - This is very possible, maxing out on expenses is the obvious way, making the most of everything – for me. The spirit is killed off by a worldly heart.

✚ No man who is full of himself can ever truly preach the Christ who emptied Himself. [J. Sidlow Baxter](#).

The self-controlled category

Self-control how not to be, - Now self-control how to be,

Giving hospitality - reflects a generous loving other centered heart

one who loves what is good, - Jesus we are told went around doing good.

who is self-controlled, - there you are again, what a definite requirement, this needful grace in a minister. He should be a wise, not rash, or foolish.

upright, - and moral righteousness, above reproach in all his dealings.

holy – One who reverences and worships God, and is of a spiritual and heavenly conversation. A clear calling - by the Lord - for the Lord

disciplined. Or **temperate**; it comes from a word that signifies *strength*, and denotes one who has power over his appetites and affections. It is last on the list as it hold all the rest together

It is these qualities that qualify a man to shepherd God's people, what he must not be, and what he must be - and do.

These are not the product of personal stoicism but that produced by the power of Christ living in that person. Paul said to Timothy: **“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”**

2Ti 1:7

Holding firmly to the one message

So the last verse. **9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.”**

- A minister must be learned, on pain of being utterly incompetent for his work. But before and above being learned, a minister must be godly. Nothing could be more fatal, however, than to set these two things over against one another. [B.B. Warfield](#), quoted in *Credenda Agenda*, Vol. 4/No. 5, p. 16.

The simple reason is that we shall never take others beyond our own spiritual attainment. (W.H. Griffith Thomas.)

So the ministry of the word must sit on top of a godly life. Only if a minister has applied the word of God first to himself – can he soundly understand it and then apply it to others.

✚ [J.R. Stott](#) says: A shepherd feeds the sheep, guides lest they go astray, guards against the wolves, and heals those injured [Between Two Worlds](#), p. 120.

The Church can only be properly governed by the word of God.

- The giving over of clergy shepherds for managers higher cost less benefit. The church is not a business

It is a spiritual house and the issues are spiritual. And the enemy is the spirit of this age whose main goal before he goes to off to Hell his final destiny is to take as many with him there as possible. He hates God and he hates you.

When the times comes to choose another minister the BU will ask you to produce a church profile and a minister profile. Here is your wish list for a new pastor.

- He must be good with children, Oh yes and with youth, and also with the neighbours, don't forget the elderly, be must be personable, he must be.. what would you add? ... Friendly, charming, nice?

Of course there are many useful qualities, but the most important by far is that he must love his Bible. That is the main thing to look for.

There are two elements.

1stly **so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine**. In other words the edification of the Church. To build us all up in the faith. This is done through the word of God, that we all know it, apply it, meditate on it, discuss it, chew on it, seek insights in prayer and through great resolve make it the authority in every area of my life.

There you see a truly wise man, one who holds to the faith; he makes a proper use of his knowledge, and applies it to the edification of the people.

Secondly - **9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can refute those who oppose it.”** Tit 1:5-9

The new churches in Crete were about to be pounced upon and therefore essential protection are able Elders/shepherds.

Living as a follower of Christ is sweet, joyful, full of hope, but there is also an enemy who likes to lay snares to catch us out. The devil wears a smile.

There in Crete the Judaisers, those they once worship with in the synagogue, where now against them. Paul describes the many in the circumcision group as **“10 rebellious, mere talkers and deceivers.**

They are causing great harm and need to be stood up again

11 because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain.” Tit 1:10-11

What was it? Were they trying to keep them in the synagogue because they wanted their tithes?

■ I wonder if we hold back on some truth, some principle because if *that* person goes then we will love significant church income??

They must be silenced Paul says, - he knows he was once one of them!

This is done by *sound doctrine*, that is, in a rational instructive way, by scripture-arguments and testimonies, which are the infallible words of truth, what all may and should rest and be satisfied in and determined by.

✚ A flock without shepherd who hold firmly to the word of God will not be able to resist the wolves.

Again two elements required in a pastor are,

1. That he be well instructed in the knowledge of sound doctrine;
2. That he with unwavering firmness of courage hold to the confession of it to the last; Knowledge of the word – and courage to defend it

■ A teacher at school who was really kind and gentle, but when he shouted we were filled with fear.

✚ The pastor ought to have two voices: one, for gathering the sheep; and another, for warding off and driving away wolves and thieves.

The Scripture supplies the Minister with the means of doing both; for he who is deeply skilled in it will be able both to govern those who are teachable, and to refute the enemies of the truth.

9 **He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught,**

The leader needs to hold firmly to help everyone else hold firmly

Hold firmly is more than just sticking to a reading plan. To **Hold firmly** or to **hold fast** means to have God's word as the mainstay. It is used elsewhere:

By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you.

Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 1Co 15:2

We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. Heb 3:14

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. Heb 4:14

Warren and David Wiersbe speak of ten basic statements about ministry:

1. The foundation of ministry is character.

4a

2. The nature of ministry is service.
3. The motive for ministry is love.
4. The measure of ministry is sacrifice.
5. The authority of ministry is submission.
6. The purpose of ministry is the glory of God.
7. The tools of ministry are the Word and prayer.
8. The privilege of ministry is growth.
9. The power of ministry is the Holy Spirit.
10. The model for ministry is Jesus Christ - for The shepherd is an under-shepherd of him who is the amen, the faithful and true witness

■ Robert Murray McCheyne wrote to Dan Edwards after the latter's ordination as a missionary, "In great measure, according to the purity and perfections of the instrument, will be the success. It is not great talents God blesses so much as great likeness to Jesus. A holy minister is an awful weapon in the hand of God". Paul Borthwick, *Leading the Way*, Navpress, 1989, p. 65.

Summary

The man to lead, to drive the train must be qualified. Look at the three areas, Blameless in his household, Blameless in the household of God, and in all things - a thorough knowledge of - and a firm hold of - God's word.

1. Then he is able to direct and keep the sheep under his care who are willing to know and do their duty.
2. And to convince those that contradict him standing firm for the faith as it has been passed down.

This is what is important. This is what to look for and pray for in a minister.

■ One Pastor was so concerned to see his people built up in that it was his practice to prepare a hymn every week to be sung after his Sunday morning sermon. What an example of love for his people that is.

His name was Benjamin Beddome. He was born at Henley-in Arden, on 23rd Jan 1717. His father was a Baptist minister. He studied at various places, and began preaching in 1740. (=23 btw). He was pastor of a Baptist society at Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire, until his death in 1795.. Though not originally intended for publication, his hymns, to the number of 830, were published in 1818. Montgomery speaks of him as a "writer worthy of honour both for the quantity and the quality of his hymns."

Let us sing a hymn as a pray for church leaders, here is Benjamin Bedomme Ordination Hymn. _____END

4b