

OLDER MEN

EAT RIGHT, THINK RIGHT, BE RIGHT ...



HCF #9: HEALTHY CHURCHES HAVE A FAITHFUL PASTOR WHO FEEDS THEM HEALTHY DOCTRINE

1) The gifting and purpose of pastor/teachers

Christ himself gave shepherd/teachers to his Church to equip the saints to do God's work.

- (Ephesians 4:11–12a ESV) And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry.

It is important that we acknowledge the significance of Christ's gift of pastor/teachers to the Church and his stated purpose in giving the gift.

2) The calling of a faithful pastor

The calling of the faithful pastor/teacher is to speak healthy doctrine to the sheep of God's hand who are under his care so that they may become functioning, spiritually healthy servants of the Lord.

1. In contrast to empty talkers the faithful preacher teaches correct, sound doctrine to promote spiritually healthy living, 2:1.

- (Titus 2:1 ESV) But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.

2. The faithful pastor/teacher is to utter sounds that are in complete agreement with correct, spiritual, healthy living.

The word for teach is ... λαλέω [laleo] and means to utter a voice or emit a sound; to speak; to use the tongue or the faculty of speech; to utter articulate sounds; to talk; to tell, to teach; to express in speech. This same word is translated "speaks" in 1 Peter 4:11 ...

A. He is passionate and diligent in his preparation and presentation to speak the words of God.

- (1 Peter 4:10–11 ESV) As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God ... in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- (2 Timothy 2:15–16 ESV) Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 16 But avoid irreverent babble [*empty talk*], for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness.

B. The faithful pastor/teacher neither peddles nor

tampers with God's word.

- (2 Corinthians 2:17 ESV) For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.
- (2 Corinthians 4:2 ESV) But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

3. The faithful pastor/teacher knows that only teaching that is in complete agreement with correct, healthy doctrine provides people with what is necessary to live spiritually healthy lives.

3) The necessary emphasis of a faithful pastor

It is necessary for the faithful pastor to rebuke and silence the many empty talkers as this is fundamental to the sound health of the church.

1. The reason for the emphasis to silence empty talkers is threefold: 1) there are many of them, 2) they bring damaging, unhealthy teaching into the church, and 3) people listen to them, 1:10-11.
 - (Titus 1:10–11 ESV) For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. 11 They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach.
2. To do this pastor/teachers must faithfully utter the words of God and rebuke the empty talkers sharply to break the unhealthy cultural ties with which they ensnare people, 1:12-14.
 - (Titus 1:12–14 ESV) One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, 14 not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth.
3. Empty talkers profess to know God but their disobedient lives deny their profession, 1:15-16.
 - (Titus 1:15–16 ESV) To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. 16 They profess to know

God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

- A. Empty talk is a symptom of the impure, defiled, unbelieving, unhealthy life of either a false follower or deceived follower of Jesus Christ.
- B. Empty talkers profess to know God but their lives deny that reality and reveal their true standing before Almighty God.
- C. God's evaluation of empty talkers is that they are detestable, disobedient and unfit for any good work.
 - (2 Timothy 3:8–9 ESV) Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. 9 But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

4) Case in point: The reality distortion field ...

The distorted reality of the many who professed to know the Lord and declared to have performed “many mighty works” in his name in Matthew 7:21–23 but who had zero relationship with Christ and are unfit for service in his name.

- (Matthew 7:21–23 ESV) Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’
1. **Don't miss this:** These people had strong faith in a false gospel and were convinced that they knew and served Jesus.
 2. **Two options:** Either they heard and believed a false gospel, or they heard the true gospel and refused to believe such as the example in Hebrews.
 - (Hebrews 4:2 ESV) For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened.
 3. Their perceived reality was that they possessed a vibrant faith in the Lord, but the harsh reality that Jesus declared to them was ...

- A. That he never knew them.
- B. That he wanted them out of his presence.
- C. And that on the day of judgment they would be condemned as workers of lawlessness.

5) The profile of a mature, spiritually healthy older man ...

The most distinguishing mark of a mature, spiritually healthy older man is sober-mindedness. He is a man who lives on sound, correct, healthy doctrine. He hungers and thirsts for righteousness and is satisfied as he eats at the table solid Bible exposition.

- (Titus 2:2 ESV) Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness.
 - (Deuteronomy 8:3 NLT) Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.
 - (Matthew 5:6 ESV) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
1. The older Christian man must know and remember this—that he will only be what he should be if he continues to eat what he should eat—sound, correct, healthy doctrine—and live accordingly.
 - A. If not, then he will lose his perspective on life.
 - B. He will lose his dignity, respect, self-control and soundness in faith, love and steadfastness.
 2. The most distinct, unique, godly directive for an older man is that he is to be sober-minded.
 - A. He lives within a biblical framework of the ultimate big picture—life or death, heaven or hell.
 - (Deuteronomy 30:19 ESV) I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live.
 - B. The godly older man does not live in grandpa mode riding off into the sunset and oblivious to his eternal destiny and that of those around him.
 - C. He is not intoxicated with anything in life but God and the glory of God, so he is careful and wise in his use of time in his brief existence on earth.

- (Ephesians 5:15–18 ESV) **Look carefully then how you walk**, not as unwise but as wise, 16 **making the best use of the time**, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, **but understand what the will of the Lord is**. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, **but be filled with the Spirit**.

D. His sober-mindedness **does not diminish with age** but grows stronger and sharpens his focus on that which is important and that which is not.

3. He is the opposite of the immature, old man who has lost his perspective on life and is carried about by the cunning and craftiness of empty talkers.

- (Ephesians 4:14 ESV) **So that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about** by every wind of doctrine, **by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes**.

4. He is a truth speaker who values, submits to and receives healthy doctrine and grows up into Christ.

- (Ephesians 4:15 ESV) **Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him** who is the head, into Christ.

The word for truth here means ... to speak or tell the truth – to speak or make known statements consistent with fact or reality.

5. He is dignified and respect for him grows **as he remains steadfast** in his walk with God.

6. Walking by the Spirit he does not gratify himself but is self-controlled.

- (Galatians 5:16 ESV) ... **walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh**.
- (Galatians 5:22–23a ESV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,



peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, **self-control**.

A. He will be moderate in his actions—wisely keeping his passions and desires in check.

B. He will be reasonable and of a sound mind—curbing his desires and impulses.

7. He will be sound in faith as he believes in and trusts the Lord with all his heart.

8. He will live with a real world perspective of what it means to love as God calls him to love.

- (1 Corinthians 13:1–7 ESV) If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, **but have not love**, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, **but have not love**, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, **but have not love**, I gain nothing. 4 **Love is** patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

9. He will be steadfast and immovable in the victory he has been given in Christ through the gospel.

- (1 Corinthians 15:58 ESV) Therefore, my beloved brothers, **be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord**, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.