

Chapter Eleven

WHO IS FIT TO LEAD?

If we are to be faithful to the New Testament, we must acknowledge that the Lord has established leaders in His church—pastors and elders. They are the examples of spiritual leadership for all the people, **and if they are not exemplary leaders, something is seriously wrong.**

The qualifications for elders and church leaders are not *just* for them. These qualities are especially mandated for them because they set the pattern for all. **“Like people, like priest” (Hosea 4:9).**

Hosea 4:9 (NASB)

**9 “And it will be, like people, like priest; So I will punish them for their ways
And repay them for their deeds.”**

What the pastor and elders are to be is the model for all Christians. And the principles that are true of leaders in the church are also good principles for every Christian in any position of leadership to apply.

So we have to look at what God requires of these model leaders **in order to know what is ultimately required of every leader.**

We began chapter 1 of this teaching by observing that modern society is suffering from a severe shortage of true leaders. The problem is closely related to the dramatic moral decline that has been systematically eating away at the foundations of our culture since (at least) the 1960s.

Western society no longer values *character*—integrity, decency, honor, loyalty, truthfulness, purity, and other virtues. A look at the typical programming on prime-time television instantly shows what the world thinks of such qualities. They have been deposed.

In their place, modern society has ensconced new and different values: **selfishness, rebellion, rudeness, profane speech, irreverence, licentiousness, intemperance, and almost every kind of decadence.** No wonder integrity is so hard to find.

Sadly, in this instance, what is true in the world is also true in the church. This is no secret. I was recently looking at a catalog from a Christian book retailer and noticed how many titles have been published over the past decade dealing with the integrity crisis in Christian leadership. The front cover of the catalog featured a half page of books on the subject. It is clear that there’s a general feeling among Christians that failure is epidemic among their leaders.

Some segments of the visible church seem to have given up trying to find men of integrity to lead them. I recently read an article in the secular newspaper about a well-known pastor who resigned under pressure when his moral and financial improprieties became front-page news in his community. Four hundred people from his church left and started a new congregation so they

CH-110 LEADERSHIP 1

Dr. Eddie Idefonso

Lecture # 67



COVINGTON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Training Leaders, Impacting Eternity



could call him to be their pastor again. They said they loved the fact that he was so **“human.”** One woman said she felt the scandal had equipped him to be a better pastor.