

## Thrones: Leveraging Authority to Help Others Win

Part 6 - Helping the Congregation Win

### Who You Are is more important than What You Do

1. If who you are is more important than what you do, than who are you?

**Answer:** It is more accurate for the Christian to say **whose** are you, rather than who are you. Our primary identity as believers are children of God, blood-bought, guilt-free, non-condemned, raised to new life, holy ones **in** Christ Jesus. We are part of His family, His Body, and His Bride. We each are a unique expression of our common indwelling Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are holy ones or saints, living stones, set apart to be built together with other holy ones as a dwelling place for God in our local setting (Ephesians 2:19-22 and 1 Peter 2:1-4). As living stones, each of us have a portion of our Lord dwelling in us by the Holy Spirit. The Lord doesn't want a individual stone, but for the stones to be built together with others to be His habitation on the earth (think "my kingdom come, my will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." It has been said, "man wants to go to heaven, but God wants to come to earth." Eventually, His fully revealed kingdom will be here, but His kingdom is already partially here **now**). So...

### Church Health vs. Church Growth

2. How do we measure church health? Or can you measure church health?

**Answer:** Ted shared, "Church leaders must prioritize character over competency." This demonstrates our focus should be on the heart more than the performance.

This is necessary in order to model and teach the congregation that we all have a calling to express the life of the Lord, bearing His image and nature on the earth. The church is the local Body of Christ, living under the direct Headship of the Son. The church exhibits her true nature as the Body of Christ when she lives and expresses His life (which in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 is exemplified in 14 character qualities of Jesus Christ). As individual believers, as Christian families, and as the local church, we all are called to bear His image, a life not our own (Galatians 2:20).

**1 Timothy 3:1-7 gives us a list of character qualities necessary for a leader to possess in order to model and teach to the congregation.**

1 Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach (not sinless, but one who sins less), faithful to his wife - one woman man; temperate - clear-headed, distraction free; **self-controlled** - full control over your body and mind; all in **red** related to self-control; **respectable** - **behavior pattern of Christlike character**; hospitable - to love strangers, entertain others, to be accepting and welcoming with your life and resources; able to teach - teachable spirit and growing, therefore has credibility and authority to teach others; **3 not given to drunkenness - addicted to alcohol, wine; not violent but gentle - not a striker; not quarrelsome - can listen to others ideas; not a lover of money - spending, buying, just because you can, doesn't mean you should.** **4** He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. **5** (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) **6** He must

not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. 7 He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

3. Why do we drift as humans towards performance instead of a humble, broken heart?

**Answer:** It is in human nature to want to perform, live by rules, and measure ourselves against others. It goes back to the Garden of Eden: two trees, one being the Tree of Life, containing God's very life to live by, all by grace; the second being the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, which is living by your own efforts, with you deciding what is good and evil, and that is what legalism is..it is your effort to be good in your own human strength to gain God's favor, the favor of others, and to make Him happy. This can't be done...only through Jesus are we accepted, forgiven, set free, and risen to a new life free from rules but free to live unto Him. Ephesians 2:8-10

4. What is your biggest issue with self-control? Why? What can you do about it?

**Holy living is for ALL Christians not , "elite" or "ordinary" Christians.**

**Whatever you expect in my behavior, you should expect in yours as well.**