




4. He has an Authentic Witness


 1 Peter 5:3. The gifted ruler is not to be a L_____ over the church but an e_____ to the flock.

The man with the gift of ruling is not a dictator. As an overseer of the church he has more responsibility than authority. The church is told many times in scripture to submit themselves to their rulers (Heb 13:17, 1 Pet 5:5), but it is not the place of the gifted ruler to demand this following. As the gifted ruler lives out a spirit-filled life, he will become an example and encouragement to the church.

 What negative effects would a harsh and demanding Pastor have on the church?


The gifted ruler has an authentic witness, that is, his personal life bears witness to what he teaches. He is not a hypocrite, but a genuine example of a godly Christian.

 1 Cor 11:1. **Q.** Why do you think Paul was able to say this?

 Heb 13:7. **Q.** What did Paul tell the Hebrews to do concerning those that had the rule over them?

The gifted ruler backs up his teaching and preaching with his lifestyle. All the textbooks and Bible studies in the world are not as valuable as one man of God living a spirit-filled life for all to see!

5. He has an Amiable Way


 Titus 1:8. **Q.** The ruler is to be a lover of h_____ and g_____.

The gifted ruler is a people person. He is friendly and welcoming. He is apt to host guests and shows his appreciation for godly men. He earns the trust of others and thus gains the opportunity to teach and influence them spiritually.

According to Titus 1:8-9, the gifted ruler does not have extreme personality flaws, but is moderate in all things (temperate).

The gifted ruler is a willing servant of the whole church. He has elements of each of the spiritual gifts and uses them for the benefit of the entire church. He has taken on the responsibility of leading, governing and encouraging the church. He leads enthusiastically and faithfully, and has offered himself to one day give account for the spiritual lives of rest of the church body.


The Gift of Ruling

 How would you describe a good church leader?


A quick search of the internet or the local book store for the topic “church leadership” will bring to light all kinds of resources meant to train church leaders. You will find books and articles with titles like these “Becoming a Person of Influence”, “10 Ways to Win People”, “How to Elevate Your Leadership Effectiveness” and so on. There is a modern movement within Christianity that views its Pastors more as *business professionals* and less as *men of God*.

In the book “Seeker Churches” by Kimon Howland Sargeant, the author suggests “[hiring] former business leaders as head pastors” in order to “[ensure] that churches are led by effective executives”. This is just one book, but it is an indication of where the modern church is heading. Today, men who lead within the church are expected to operate more like CEOs relying on their business education and experience and less like God-called men relying on the word of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit. This is a troubling trend and grossly unscriptural.

In this study we will examine the Biblical expectations for a church leader. And since we are seeking what the Bible has to say regarding leadership, we will begin by using Biblical terms. The term “leader” is not found in the New Testament, but the term “ruler” is, and it is this gift that we will be exploring today – The Gift of Ruling.

 Romans 12:8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; _____; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.


The word *ruleth* here means to “preside over” or to “maintain”. It does not carry with it the harsh connotation that we might attach to it today. This will become more clear as we study the character of the Ruler.

 1 Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, _____, diversities of tongues.

This verse is not talking about civil governments, but rather those in the church who *govern*. The word government literally means *to pilot, steer or direct*. Imagine the pilot of a ship who is responsible for the care, direction and destination of a ship. This is much like the man who has the gift of ruling. His position in the church makes him responsible for the care, direction, and destination of God's people.


In order to learn the characteristics of one with the gift of ruling, we'll examine the requirements that God has set forth in his word, for those who would govern the church. Immediately we will notice that the gift of ruling or governments is actually a mix of many (or all) of the other gifts!

The Titles of Ruling Men

 1 Tim 3:2-5. **Q.** What title do we find for a church leader in verse 2?

Q. What must the Bishop *do well?* (v4). Why? (v5)

The word Bishop means “overseer”. The Bishop has the responsibility of watching over the church and caring for it. This title can be interchanged with *Pastor*.


 1 Tim 5:17. **Q.** What title do we find for a church leader in this verse?

Q. What should the Elder *do well?*_____.

The Bishops and Elders of the church were men whom God chose to govern, oversee and lead the church. These were men who possessed the *gift of ruling*. For the remainder of this study we will look at the characteristics of these men and determine what the *gift of ruling* is all about.


1. He has an Ability in the Word


 Read 1 Pet 5:1-4. **Q.** What did Peter say he was? _____.


 v2. “_____ the flock of God which is among you”


Q. What type of food do you think the “flock” is fed? How are they fed?

The ruling elder is one who has a knowledge of scripture and is willing and able to share that knowledge with the church.

 Heb 13:7. **Q.** In this verse, what had those *who had the rule over the church* spoken? _____.


 1 Tim 5:17. **Q.** What did the *elders that rule well* labour in? _____

 1 Tim 3:2. **Q.** What must a Bishop be *apt* to do? _____.

 Titus 1:9. **Q.** What is the Bishop to *hold fast?* _____.


Men who have the gift of ruling have a good knowledge of scripture. They are willingly and apt to teach others the word of God. They are able, through the word of God to encourage and strengthen the church and to convince skeptics (gainsayers) of the truth (Titus 1:9). The ruler governs the church by leading it according to the will and word of God.

2. He is Accountable for his Work


 1 Pet 5:2. **Q.** What is the elder told to “take”? _____.

To take the oversight means to *take the responsibility of caring for*. The ruler takes on the responsibility of the church. He cares for the spiritual well-being of the church members and seeks to encourage them to become mature Christians.

Along with this oversight comes accountability. The gifted ruler must answer to God for the results of his oversight.

 Heb 13:17. **Q.** The ruler w_____ for your soul and he must give _____ for your spiritual growth.


3. He has an Attitude of Willingness

 1 Pet 5:2. ... taking the oversight thereof, not by _____ but _____.

The gifted ruler does not serve the church because he feels obligated to do so. He takes on the great burden and responsibility of caring for God's people *willingly*. The ruler leads with joy and cheerfulness, he is eager and even excited to lead (out of a ready mind).

Q. According to 1 Peter 5:2, the gifted ruler does not serve for F _____ L _____.

Filthy lucre means *money* or *profit*. The gifted ruler is not an “employee” of the church. He may be (and should be) compensated by the church, but this is not his motivation to serve.

 How much do you think the Pastor should be compensated for his ministry? Read 1 Tim 5:17,18 while considering the answer.

Let's summarize the qualities of the gifted ruler:

1. The ruler has scriptural knowledge and willingly teaches others what he knows. He encourages the church with the word of God, and is able to refute arguments of the unsaved. He governs the church according to the will and word of God. 1 Tim 5:17, Titus 1:9, Heb 13:7.
2. The ruler willingly assumes the responsibility of the spiritual well-being of the church body. He is willing to give account to God for the results of his ministry. 1 Pet 5:2,4, Heb 13:17.
3. The ruler leads with enthusiasm and cheerfulness. His leadership role is not grievous to him, but he takes joy in his responsibility. 1 Pet 5:2.
4. The ruler can lead without becoming a dictator, or carried away with authority. His focus is on responsibility more than authority. 1 Pet 5:3
5. The ruler can lead with or without compensation (although it is appropriate and biblical to compensate him), money is not his motivation. 1 Tim 3:3, Titus 1:7, 1 Pet 5:2
6. The ruler leads by example. He does not ask his followers to do those things which he is not doing. His greatest strength is his testimony, it confirms what he teaches. 1 Pet 5:3, 1 Tim 3:4,5
7. The ruler is a people person and can win others to himself, thus earning the privilege of teaching and admonishing them. Titus 1:8
8. The ruler is moderate in all things and does not have extreme personality flaws. 1 Tim 3:3, Titus 1:7,8
9. The ruler maintains a good testimony with those who are not Christians. 1 Tim 3:7