



CHOOSE GOOD LEADERS

I have said many times and have learned from personal experience that a church is only as healthy as its leaders. A church can be brought to its knees even from a single unhealthy leader with too much influence. However, as members of a church body, we need to course-correct our expectations of a church before choosing to serve there. Are we even asking the right questions before making our choice?

What does a healthy community of faith look like to you?

TALK ABOUT IT

What are the typical things people look for when they are seeking a new church home?

If you were looking for a new church home, what do you think is the most important question to ask?

How do you agree or not agree with the statement, “A church is only as healthy as its leadership.”?

Why does character matter more than—talent, charisma, or leadership ability?

APPLY IT

Read 1 Timothy 3:1-13.

Paul emphasizes observable, consistent patterns rather than flawless living.

What is the difference between a mature pattern of life and perfection?

Although Paul is addressing church leaders, these qualities become a mirror for every Christian.

Why do you or do you not think it's right to hold church leaders to a higher standard? (This includes anyone in a leadership position, not just pastors and elders.)

We can't heal from what we won't face.

What makes it difficult to face our struggles honestly?

Jesus does more than show us what godliness looks like: he forgives our failures and gives us his Spirit.

How does that keep this passage from becoming a self-improvement checklist?

Read 1 Timothy 3:14–16.

Why is it significant that Paul moves from Christian conduct to what Jesus has done and how he lived?

PRAY

This is a great topic to pray about together. Healthy leadership is crucial for every church. We should never take that for granted. This is a good time to pray for our leaders at Maury Hills, which includes all leaders (elders, pastors, interns, groups, ministry leaders.) Many of these are likely in your group.