

Preserving the Church

Nehemiah 7

1. Leaders: God Fearing & Lives of Integrity vs. 1-3

The mission to complete building the walls was only step one. Placing people in the needed roles so that the Israelite community can maintain a community that lives for the LORD; leaders whose character honours God, and focuses on living for Yahweh.

The church will live for God when the leadership roles are filled with competent people who have the spiritual vitality and the Godly character that will maintain the church to live out the gospel.

Reflection: Spiritual Health: your relationship with God.

What are you doing to keep your relationship close with God? How is your quiet time doing? Are you letting God's Word teach you, correct, rebuke, and train you in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16)? A healthy leader is a praying leader. Does your days reflect dependency on God through prayerfully living out each day? Does your life positively impact others to pray? In the past year, would your spiritual hunger, and life of worship be viewed as one that is growing, plateaued, or declining?

Godly Character: our life reflecting God. 1 Timothy 3:1-7 is focusing on deacons and elders and what their Godly Character should be as leaders. However, that list is important for us to reflect in our own lives as leaders as well.

If the leader's life is not aiming to Grow for God, then these two components will be weak, and will cause the leader to stumble and fall. These two components are like our two feet enabling us to stand. We can only be more rock solid in leadership by God's Spirit leading and His grace transforming us into leaders of Godly Character.

2. Loyal Church: People living in God's grace. Vs. 4-73a

In light of the fierce opposition and the constant threat of legal action against Nehemiah and the community, Nehemiah wants to make sure as they repopulate and restore the community of God's people, that this community is comprised of the people of Israel who had experienced God's grace in the return to Jerusalem after 70 years of captivity. (Jeremiah 29:10-14; Ezra 1-6).

The church is the body of Christ; those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ. Those in the body of Christ have the responsibility to preserve the church by only allowing Christ followers to do the decision making, equipping, teaching & discipling. That is one of the reason's why we have church membership.