

# PREPARATION FOR COUNSELING FROM THE PASTORAL EPISTLES

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## Engaging the Heart

- I. You want to be personally prepared to counsel.
  - A. Counseling is discipleship.
  - B. What do you need to disciple another person?
  - C. The Bible gives us the qualities and skills needed to do so. Cf., ***Westminster Confession of Faith 1:6***.
- II. You can learn from the Bible.
  - A. First, and foremost, principles of leadership that are taught. The pastoral epistles fit this category.
  - B. Second, you have examples of leadership, both positive and negative. Due to time we'll not look at these.
  - C. Third, you have practical wisdom gained by living pastors in leadership. Hopefully I can be of some help here.
- III. We will look at the pastoral epistles.
  - A. 1 Timothy is our main text.
  - B. Titus is a pithy echo of 1 Timothy.
  - C. 2 Timothy is Paul's final earthly epistle.
  - D. We will then summarize the three.

## Exposition of the Word

- I. You, like Timothy, can learn from Paul, 1 Timothy.
  - A. You must confront doctrinal error using the Law/Word lawfully, 1:3-11. SKILL/CHARACTER
  - B. You must trust in God's grace, 1:12-17. CHARACTER
  - C. You must fight under pressure, 1:18-20. CHARACTER/SKILL
  - D. You must be a man of prayer, 2:1-7. CHARACTER
  - E. You must lovingly confront error in personal relations, 2:8-13. CHARACTER/SKILL
  - F. You must have a godly CHARACTER, 3:1-13. Only one is a SKILL, teaching.
  - G. You must trust in the Mystery of godliness, 3:14-16. CHARACTER
  - H. You must confront demonic doctrine, 4:1-5. SKILL
  - I. You must be a disciplined man, 4:6-16. CHARACTER/SKILL SET: 1) read the Scriptures 2) exhort 3) teach.
  - J. You need to handle people well, 5:1-6:2. CHARACTER/SKILL
  - K. You need to teach proper doctrine including godly life skills, 6:2-10. SKILL
  - L. You need to personally flee evil and pursue righteousness, 6:11-16. CHARACTER
  - M. You need to be bold and teach in the face of worldly power, 6:17-19. CHARACTER/SKILL
  - N. You need to be loyal, 6:20-21. CHARACTER.
- II. You, like Titus, can learn from Paul, Titus.

- A. You must organize and put things in order, 1:5-9. SKILL
  - B. You must organize and put things in order in the midst of conflict, 1:10-16. CHARACTER
  - C. You must have the CHARACTER you look for in leaders!1:5-16.
  - D. You must teach godly life skills to your disciples, 2:1-10.
  - E. You must be an example, CHARACTER, in teaching others, SKILL, 2;1-8. The two are joined.
  - F. You must trust God's grace, 2:11-14. CHARACTER
  - G. You must teach well: SKILL SET: 1) declare with authority 2) exhort 3) rebuke 4) persist CHARACTER
  - H. You must be one who reminds sheep to obey because of God's grace and to avoid being factious, 3:1-11. SKILL/CHARACTER
  - I. You must always exhort, 3:12-15 CHARACTER
- III. You, like Timothy, can learn to finish the race from Paul, 2 Timothy.
- A. You must maintain a good conscience, 1:3-7. CHARACTER
  - B. You must be loyal to God, the gospel and your discipler, 1:8-18. CHARACTER
  - C. You must teach the next generation of leaders, 2:1-7. CHARACTER/SKILL
  - D. You must always remember Jesus Christ as the source of salvation and sanctification, 2:8-13.CHARACTER
  - E. You must gently remind people of the truth amidst conflict as God gives repentance to life, 2:14-26. CHARACTER/SKILL
  - F. You will face hostility, 3:1-13. CHARACTER
  - G. Your tools are the sufficient Word, 3:14-17. CHARACTER
  - H. You must remain loyal to your calling, 4:1-8. CHARACTER/SKILL 1) preach 2) prepared for good and bad times 3) reprove 4) rebuke 5) do 3& 4 with patience 6) teach
  - I. You must remain loyal to the LORD, 4:9-18. CHARACTER
- IV. You can summarize what we have in the three epistles.
- A. You must be an exemplary Christian.
    - 1. Holiness
    - 2. Christlikeness
    - 3. A living model
  - B. You need extensive knowledge of the Word.
  - C. You need certain skills.
    - 1. Read the Word well
    - 2. Reprove, rebuke, patiently
    - 3. Correct
    - 4. Encourage
    - 5. Train

### **Exhortation for Life**

1. Who is sufficient?
2. Only the Good Shepherd. But you have His Spirit.
3. ***Timothy, Titus and You***