

TRUTH THAT TRANSFORMS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

TITUS 1:1-4

1 The first major topic Paul addresses in his letter to Titus is that of elders. (Note v. 7, “overseer,” also translated “bishop” are used interchangeably with the official title of elder.)

 *How does Paul describe an elder in our text? Make a list and compare the positive and negative qualifications and characteristics of an elder that Paul gives.*

 *What do you notice about the list?*

2 Think about both the essential character and skill for the leaders of a local church.

 *What habits of holiness must be cultivated in an elder’s life in order for them to be able to fulfill their role as God intended?*

 *What competencies or skills did Paul say a church elder must have?*

 *Now bring those both together. What is the relationship between those skills and the character traits Paul said elders must have?*

 *Why is it important for you to understand the role and qualifications of elders according to scripture?*

 *How are you thankful for God’s care for you through the gift of a pastor?*

3 Think of what the Bible says are the qualifications for pastors. (They are listed in Titus 1:5-9 as well as 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 2 Timothy 4:1-5, 1 Peter 5:1-5)

 *Which seems to be emphasized more strongly in the church today—character or function? Which should be emphasized, and why?*

 *Survey a few of the following passages: 1 Sam 16:7, 2 Chron. 16:9; Ps. 51:10; Prov. 4:23; 1 Thess. 2:4. What correlations can you draw for your own fulfillment of the roles and responsibilities God has given you? For instance: Which gets emphasized most—character or function? Which should be emphasized most? What adjustments need to be made in your own priorities?*

