

WHY YOU NEED A PASTOR

...servant of this gospel by the grace given me through the power. ⁸Although I am least of all God's people, he has given me: to preach to the unsearchable riches of God, so that I may make plain to everyone the knowledge of this mystery, which has been kept hidden in God, who has created all things. ¹⁰His intent was that through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, through whom we have received the inheritance. ¹¹Therefore, I ask you, do not let anyone despise you, inasmuch as you are fellow workers for the gospel, which will bring glory to us, and to you, as you follow the same path, as I follow it. ¹²Therefore, as you are fellow workers, rejoice in the suffering which is for me, and for you, according to the gospel, which will bring glory to us, and to you, as you follow the same path, as I follow it. ¹³Therefore, as you are fellow workers, rejoice in the suffering which is for me, and for you, according to the gospel, which will bring glory to us, and to you, as you follow the same path, as I follow it. ¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by crafty schemes, and by works of knowledge, which are vain, when we have reached maturity, in order that we may speak the truth in love, and grow up in every way into Christ, who is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the savior, himself the church, which he cleanses by the word of water with the word, that he may present to himself the church to himself, without stain or wrinkle or anything of the kind, that he may present it to himself in glory, without stain or wrinkle or anything of the kind. ¹⁵But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ¹⁶This is why I say: ¹⁷When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men. ¹⁸What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁹He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe. ²⁰It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ²¹to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up, ²²until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ²³Therefore, let us leave infantile doctrines behind us and, grasping the whole truth of the faith, let us grow up in every way into Christ, who is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the savior, himself the church, which he cleanses by the word of water with the word, that he may present it to himself in glory, without stain or wrinkle or anything of the kind. ²⁴Therefore, let us leave infantile doctrines behind us and, grasping the whole truth of the faith, let us grow up in every way into Christ, who is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the savior, himself the church, which he cleanses by the word of water with the word, that he may present it to himself in glory, without stain or wrinkle or anything of the kind.

Pastor Rich Wilkerson / October 17, 2021

YOU NEED A PASTOR WHOSE SPIRITUALITY IS ATTRACTIVE

Part 4

1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1 - "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but not everything is constructive. ²⁴ No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.

²⁵ Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience, ²⁶ for, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."

²⁷ If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience. ²⁸ But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, both for the sake of the one who told you and for the sake of conscience. ²⁹ I am referring to the other person's conscience, not yours. For why is my freedom being judged by another's conscience? ³⁰ If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for?

³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

³² Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—

³³ even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

11:1 - Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

1st

CHARACTER is ATTRACTIVE to those seeking a SPIRITUAL LEADER

1 Timothy 3:2-7 - Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. ⁵ (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. ⁷ He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

Psalms 119:1 - Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord.

Proverbs 10:9 - Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.

1 Corinthians 15:33 - Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

Job 1:1 - In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.

2nd

COURAGE is ATTRACTIVE to those seeking a SPIRITUAL LEADER

Deuteronomy 31:7-9 - Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the Lord swore to their ancestors to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance. ⁸ The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

Joshua 1:2,6,7,9 - "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. ⁶ Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. ⁷ "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Esther 4:15-16 - Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

3rd

Being CONSIDERATE is ATTRACTIVE to those who are seeking a SPIRITUAL LEADER

"Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less!" - CS Lewis

Psalms 41:1 - Blessed are those who have regard for the weak; the Lord delivers them in times of trouble.

Romans 12:16 - Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Philippians 4:5 - Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

4th

Being CONFIDENT is ATTRACTIVE to those seeking a SPIRITUAL LEADER

Romans 8:35, 37, 38 & 39 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.