

LOOKING FOR SHEPHERDS



MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MAINTAIN UNITY A Study of Ephesians 4:1-6

What Makes For A Worthy Life? [4:1-3]

A worthy life will invest energy into God's unity plan.

What We Must Be United On [4:4-6]

"Unity in essentials, liberty in incidentals, & in all things love."

What We Will NOT Be United On

In **Revelation**, Ephesus was praised for testing true apostles.
In **Eph 4** church leadership immediately follows the unity list.
In **1 Timothy**, Paul wants elders appointed at Ephesus.
On the 100s of Christian opinions.

Leadership In The New Testament



Overseer *Virtues* 2 Pet 1:5-11

Notice where the
Elders
This
Being eager to obey, doesn't mean we're so desperate we'll
just pour or sprinkle, neither should we be so desperate we
just appoint anyone. There will need to be grace-filled hard
conversations about **1 Timothy 3 & Titus 1.**

Biblical Virtues of a Leader

1) Biblically, they're human & humans sin.

Think about this with Ephesus [Acts 20:17, 28-32].

To Timothy in Ephesus notice [1 Tim 5:17-25].

Paul presupposes elders will sin & some will *persist!*

We must keep these rules *without partiality.*

Sins of some people take a while to become public.

Biblical Virtues of a Leader

1) Biblically, they're human & humans sin.

Think about this with Ephesus [**Acts 20:17, 28-32**].

Paul says some elders will persist in sin [**1 Tim 5:17-25**]!

Jesus knew the OT religious leader track record.

Expresses stern concern [**Mt23:29-39; Mk12:24, 38-40**]

Even the apostle Peter joined in sin with Barnabas.

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1) Biblically, they're human & humans sin.

Think about this with Ephesus [Acts 20:17, 28-32].

Paul says some elders will persist in sin [1 Tim 5:17-25]!

Jesus saw leader flaws: [Mt23:29-39; Mk12:24, 38-40].

2) **We aren't looking for perfection.**

We need grace filled assessment of self & others.

Churches need humble realistic leaders, open to criticism.

This is a critical character trait of *maturing* elders.

Biblical Virtues of a Leader

1) Biblically, they're human & humans sin.

Ephesus heresy [Ac 20:28-32]. *Persist in sin* [1 Tim 5:17-25]!

2) We aren't looking for perfection. Grace-filled judgments.

Biblical *maturing* elders will be humble & open to criticism.

3) Why is agreement hard on 1 Tim 3 & Titus 1 lists?

They aren't easily measured. People mis-use the lists.

People aren't consistent in how they apply the standards.

We're tempted to add reasons to some that aren't there.

We've all been brought up with different experiences.

