

# Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

2 November 2014

## Topics

### A.M. Bible Class:

Our worship (Acts 2:36-47)

### A.M. Lesson:

Tithing (Malachi 3:6-12)

### P.M. Lesson:

The nature of God's promises (John 3:16-17)

### Wednesday:

Singing

### Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

### Elders

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" Psalm 122:2*

## The 9 Qualifications for Elders We Never Talk About

Wes McAdams

When a congregation starts the process of appointing new elders, the preacher usually preaches a lesson or two about the qualifications of elders. 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 are usually the two texts on which the preacher focuses. But I think we are missing some qualifications that are much more fundamental. Obviously a man must not be a drunkard and he must be the husband of one wife; but just because he meets these qualifications, does not necessarily make him qualified to serve as a shepherd in the Lord's church.

Before we talk about the qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, we ought to begin by talking about the fruit of the Spirit. If a man does not display the fruit of the Spirit, then he does not "walk by the Spirit" (Galatians 5:16). If a man does not walk by the Spirit, he certainly is not qualified to serve as an elder, regardless of whether or not he meets the qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

Consider the qualities Paul lists in Galatians 5:22-23. These are the first nine qualities we ought to look for when considering a man for the office of overseer:

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Faithfulness
8. Gentleness
9. Self-Control

If a man does not possess these qualities, then he is not "led by the Spirit" (Galatians 5:18) and it is a moot point to proceed further by asking whether or not he is the husband of one wife, has believing children, etc.

Consider the ramifications of this idea. This means, for instance, that a man who is not joyful, is not qualified to serve as an elder. He may have been a Christian for five decades, may have never been divorced, may know the Bible from cover-to-cover, and may be able to refute every false doctrine, but if he is known in the congregation and the community as a grumpy old man – he is not qualified to hold the office. Similarly, if a man is not kind, gentle, and patient – he is not qualified to serve as an elder.

Personally, I can say I serve under the oversight of four elders who not only meet the qualifications of elders listed in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, but just importantly, meet the qualifications listed in

Galatians 5. In the lives of these four men, it is easy to see the fruit of the Spirit. Unfortunately, however, many congregations cannot say that about the men serving there as elders.

So maybe, when it's time to appoint elders, congregations should consider Galatians 5:22-23 before they consider anything else. And if a man currently serves as an elder – or wishes to someday serve as an elder – these are some of the qualities he ought to cultivate in his life; just as every Christian ought to be cultivating these qualities.

Radicallychristian.com, October 29, 2014

The gospel isn't like an advertisement for a product we might or might not want to buy, depending on how we felt at the time. It is more like a command from an authority we would be foolish to resist. Caesar's messengers didn't go around the world saying 'Caesar is lord, so if you feel like you need to have a Roman-empire kind of experience, you might want to submit to him.' The challenge of Paul's gospel is that someone very different to Caesar, exercising a very different kind of power, is the world's true lord. -N. T. Wright.

I have been pondering how we as a church study Scripture. There are core issues that we (hopefully) all agree on— matters of salvation. There are others that are related but they require more focused study. Should we only stick to the subjects about which we agree? or is it okay to dig into Bible topics with which we sometimes disagree? Some Christians prefer to just bask in the warm glow of Christian family love. Hopefully, that love can carry us through difficult studies. I posted the question on a church of Christ Facebook group. I was curious how people handle difficult studies within the brotherhood—or should we just avoid difficult studies? The following response seems to nail it. -ns

David R Wickenden: I think the answer to your question is "it depends." Here on FB we see people who are happy to have a respectful, thoughtful discussion, learning from others, and hopefully teaching too. But we see others who are here to lecture, to assert (at least implicitly) that they understand Scripture perfectly, and that to disagree with them is to disagree with God. The first group I'm thrilled to be able to engage. When I realize I'm dealing with someone in the second group, I'm

wasting my time. My only prayer is that something I say will encourage them to think a little more deeply.

But in the end the church has to engage these issues, we have no choice!

I think the following graphic is funny. It is not a commentary on anybody's Bible. Please see it simply as an attempt at humor. -ns



"A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't." – C. H. Spurgeon



"A Bible that's falling apart possibly belongs to someone who bought a cheap Zondervan." – Angus Wordsworth Duncan

sacredsandwich.com

## News

Graveside services for Bill Hill, will be held on Saturday November 8 at the cemetery in Duncan, at 4 PM. He was Jenna Miller's father.

Michelle Barela, friend of Jessica Cavasos and Nikki Lamers (Kevin and Becky Cavasos' daughter) and her son were in a bad car accident. Both are being treated for injuries.

Tatyana Knowlton is having some problems with Macular Degeneration. She will be having a shot in her eye about once a month. Pray that this will clear up the problem and bring some relief.

Joy Gibson is recovering from surgery.

## Prayer List:

Joy Gibson, Janet Radar, H.L. Boling, Mike and Sandy Cavasos, Nic and Ani Self.

