

The Lord had to correct him: “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him” (1 Samuel 16:7). God finally directed Samuel to the youngest, a shepherd boy with a huge heart for God—David.

David turned out to be a pretty good choice. He established a secure nation that followed God. God responded by establishing David’s throne for eternity, with Jesus being the fulfillment of that promise.

You really can’t judge a book by its cover, good or bad. You might have voted for Saul over David too, before David had the chance to demonstrate his faith.

So be warned: Before you go making snap judgments on a leader’s externals—stop. Who says you are supposed to make such judgments anyway?

The next time, read the person a little before you pass judgment on his or her qualifications to lead. Otherwise, you might get stuck with a Saul. Those leader-type looks can get old when there is no substance behind the style! —JC



REFLECTION

- Why are even Christians sometimes swayed by physical appearance rather than character as a qualification for leadership?
- In what ways do I make a mistake in evaluating leaders? What qualities should I emphasize?

Follow the leader who follows Christ.

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Please feel free to contact the Pastor for any needs you may have, queries, or questions about our church family.

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Central Mountains Baptist Church

8 NOVEMBER, 2009

Information for Visitors.

* We're glad you're here. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the service. You're very welcome to join us for a cuppa after church.

* a Cubbies programme is normally provided, during the sermon for the **toddler to Kindy age bracket.**

Looks Deceive

What qualities do you look for in a pastor or a Bible-study leader? Good voice? Funny stories? Tall with great hair? Stylin' clothes? Sounds smart and cites lots of verses in his study?

Let's be honest. When we evaluate Christian leaders, appearance is a starting point, for better or worse. We also want our leaders to act a certain way. Looking at our standards, you would think we were choosing entertainers instead of leaders.

Israel made the same mistake when they chose a king. First Samuel 9:2 says Saul was “an impressive young man without equal among the Israelites—a head taller than any of the others.” (I wonder if he had great hair too?)

On the inside, however, Saul fell short. He compromised and he let his ego think for him. Ultimately, God had to reject him as king and choose another.

Even Samuel showed his human perspective when God sent him to Jesse's family to anoint the next king. Samuel looked at the oldest son and thought, *Cha-ching! We got us a winner.*





Discipleship Series

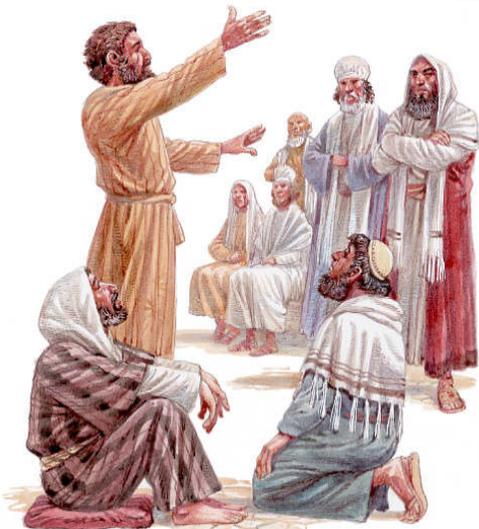
Body Life III

The letters to Timothy and Titus describe 7 responsibilities that we have to each other in the local church. Today we consider the last three:

1. Choose godly _____,

- ◆ Pastors, Tit 1:5-9, 1Tim 3:1-7
- ◆ Deacons, 1 Tim 3:8-10, 12-13
- ◆ Wives, 1 Tim 3:11
- ◆ Responsibility of the body, 1 Tim 5:22, 5-17-20
- ◆ Responsibility of the leader, 1 Tim 4:14

(Acts 15:1-2) "And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." {2} Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders,



about this question." *(Acts 15:4-7)* "And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them. {5} But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses." {6} Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter. {7} And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: "Men and brethren, you know that a good while



ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe."

(Acts 15:10-15) ""Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? {11} "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they." {12} Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles. {13} And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, "Men and brethren, listen to me:

{14} "Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. {15} "And with this the words of the prophets agree...:"

(Acts 15:18-23) ""Known to God from eternity are all His works. {19} "Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, {20} "but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood. {21} "For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath."

{22} Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.. {23} They wrote this letter by them: ...

2. _____ for each other , 1 Timothy 5:3-16, 6:17-19



3. Deal with _____, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, Titus 1:10-13, 3:9-11

