

## Developing and Equipping Leaders

Darrin Patrick | St. Louis, MO

Timothy was a young gifted man with a vision to plant a gospel-centered, missional church in a lost and dying city. He was a man in need of character growth, gift development and godly courage. Timothy needed to learn practical and counter-intuitive wisdom in order to apply the gospel to his own heart and in his own context. He was every church planter. Paul's letters to Timothy can serve as valuable theological and practical coaching documents as we seek to plant gospel-centered, missional churches.



### Self-Leadership

#### Getting the gospel

"There is no commitment we will make as church planters of greater importance than living close to Jesus. For church planting can become an idol factory; a prostitution ring; a cruel taskmaster; a breeding ground for addictions... we need church planters who will love Jesus with abandon, and who cultivate a lifestyle of growing in His grace and knowledge. Until you know yourself to be slow of heart to believe the gospel, you will never cultivate a burning heart for the gospel. Churches planted with the DNA of the gospel will be led by those who live a life of gospel astonishment."  
Scotty Smith

Most churches make the mistake of selecting as leaders the confident, the competent, and the successful. But what you most need in a leader is someone who has been broken by the knowl-



edge of his or her sin, and even greater knowledge of Jesus' costly grace. The number one leaders in every church ought to be the people who repent the most fully without excuses, because you don't need any now; the most easily without bitterness; the most publicly and the most joyfully. They know their standing isn't based on their performance.

Tim Keller

### **Working hard in your context**

Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. Practice these things, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers. 1 Timothy 4:14-16

## **Leadership Pitfalls**

### **Getting fooled by a wolf**

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Acts 20:28-30

### **Being wowed by a person's gifting**

Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure. 1 Timothy 5:22

### **Giving into age insecurity**

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12

### **Reacting because of pressure**

### **Mistaking scaffolding for structure**

### **Letting your worship leader define and design your worship service**

I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling. 1 Timothy 2:8

## Leadership Tensions

**Focused ministry vs. felt-need ministry**

**Being busy vs. Getting results**

**Action vs. reflection**

**Solitude vs. people**

**Shepherding vs. Leadership**

## Equipping Leaders

**Invest in high capacity people**

and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. 1 Timothy 6:18

**Teach them right doctrine**

As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. 1 Timothy 1:3-4

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away



from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

2 Timothy 4:3-4

And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. 2 Timothy 2:24-26

### **Use your deacon process to test leaders**

Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. He must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. 1 Timothy 3:8-10