

The theme of our men's retreat this year is taken from Gene Getz's book, *The Measure Of A Man*. The texts for the retreat are 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Both of these passages give the qualifications for an elder. In Paul's letter to Titus, he tells him to ordain pastors in the churches on the island of Crete. He gives Titus some specific qualifications for elders, so that Titus will know whether a man qualifies for the position. The qualifications are 1) that a man must be above reproach in his family life and in his character; 2) that a man be strong in God's word.

(Titus 1:5-9) "For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, {6} namely, if any man be above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. {7} For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, {8} but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, {9} holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict."

The other passage that will be used in this retreat is Paul's letter to Timothy. Here, the qualifications are very similar to the list in Titus. 1) A man must be above reproach in his family, his character, and his reputation. 2) He must be able to teach. 3) He must also be a good manager. While the qualifications of the elder are essentially the same as in Titus, this passage differs significantly from Titus in the objective. Paul's letter to Titus is to help the young apostle identify men who qualify to be elders. In Timothy, Paul gives the qualifications so that men who have a desire in their life to become pastors know what is expected of them. Paul gives Timothy a bar to hold up for men to look at. An aspiring man can measure his life with the qualifications given and know the areas he needs to work on.

(1 Timothy 3:1-7) "It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. {2} An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, {3} not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money. {4} He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity {5} (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?); {6} and not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. {7} And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he may not fall into reproach and

the snare of the devil."

I was asked by Tom Humphries to give the opening message to the Men's Retreat. He asked me specifically to give a broad overview of what will be covered. As I prayed about the message, I was led to 1 Peter 5:1-3, a passage that the Apostle Peter directed towards pastors. He exhorted them to shepherd the flock. In his instructions, he uses three different comparisons that teach us how God's flock should be shepherded. He speaks about the mind set of a pastor, the motive of a pastor and the method of a pastor. The method of a pastor is to lead by example, not by lording over those allotted to their care. The elders are to be an example to the flock.

(1 Peter 5:1-3) "Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, {2} shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; {3} nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock."

Why are we looking at the qualifications of an elder? Because elders are examples to the flock. The character and behavior that elders are required to have is that same character and behavior that the flock needs to have. The elders merely model it for them. Whether you aspire to be an elder or not, the qualifications given in these two passages are the character qualities that all of us need in our lives. We want to be above reproach in every area of our lives. We want to be men of character.

Tonight, I will be giving an overview and why we are looking at this passage. Tomorrow morning Vince Tidwell will be sharing about living as a temperate man. Tomorrow afternoon, Pastor Chris Willadsen will be covering how to live prudently. Tomorrow night Stan Schug will be speaking on how to deal with anger at home. Saturday evening, Val Bigger will be speaking on living respectfully. And in our final session, Pastor Frank Malizzo will sharing on how to live devout lives.

As we look at these various character qualities, we are not using these character qualities to find elders. We are not looking at these qualities as a hoop to jump through. We are looking at these qualities as God's standard for us as men. God has given these various character qualities to establish a standard or example for us to pattern our lives after. In our session tonight, we are going to be looking at this pattern or example.

Specifically, we are going to look at the Greek word of example that is used in 1 Peter 5,

tupos. Tupos has several different meanings.

G5179. tupos, too'-pos; from G5180; a die (as struck), i.e. (by impl.) a stamp or scar; by anal. a shape, i.e. a statue, (fig.) style or resemblance; spec. a sampler ("type"), i.e. a model (for imitation) or instance (for warning):--en- (ex-) ample, fashion, figure, form, manner, pattern, print.

## 1. **A die**

The first meaning is a die. Tupos comes from the word tuptos, which means to strike. There are different kinds of dies, but they are used to create an identical image in another piece of material. The metal used in the die must be harder than the metal being shaped. Leaders must have be strong and not be shaped by those who we are molding. When we help a man with pornography or lust, we must be stronger than those temptations. When we help a person with gossip, we must not be spreading gossip ourselves. The scriptures speaks to this in Galatians 6.

(Galatians 6:1) "Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted."

Leadership is to leave an impression on your life and mine. They have to be men of character and strength who will not be swayed by the world. They have to be made of harder material and leave an impression on the world. They are influencers.

Guys, the significance of this is that we need to be the influencers in society today. We need to be the influencers at the ball fields. We need to be the influencers at the base. We need to be the influencers in the business community. We need to be stronger than the culture we live in so that we are impacting it, rather than being conformed to its image.

How do we become the die or mold that God wants us to be? God gives us some ways and examples of how to do it. First, He tells us not to be squeezed into the mold of the world. Instead, He tells us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. We have to fill and saturate our minds with the word of God. We have to meditate on the word of God. We have to submit our lives to God and to His Word. We have to allow God freedom to change our lives.

(Rom 12:1-2) "I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual

service of worship. {2} And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

James tells us three things that will help us get our die casting or mold correct. First, he says that we have to receive the Word of God in humility. It is easy to work with soft, pliable clay. Hard or proud clay is not very workable. We must receive the Word in humility.

(James 1:21-25) "Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. {22} But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. {23} For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; {24} for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. {25} But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does."

Second, James also tells us that we must be doers of the word of God. Transformation is not just in the mind, but in our actions. We must not only change the way we think about things, but it must change the way we do things. Change of mind is validated by change in behavior.

Third, James tells us to look intently at the Word of God. When we are casual in our time in God's word, we become a forgetful hearer and forget what kind of person we were. When we look intently, our lives are transformed into the mold of Christ.

For your further study on this point, let me encourage you to study the first couple chapters of Daniel. Nebuchanezzar (father of destruction) wanted to squeeze Daniel and his three friends into the world's mold. Daniel had stronger material and resolve. The King's food, literature, language, and customs were not going to influence him. Instead, he was going to be the influencer and mold for his generation. This weekend, we are going to be looking intently at 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, at the character and measure of a man. God is wanting to use this weekend to help perfect our mold.

## **2. A figure or statue**

A second use of the word tupos is as a figure or statue. In Acts 7:43 we find that the word

tupos is translated as images (NASB), figures (KJV), or pattern (NIV). This was something that people could look up to, observe and emulate. Most of the time, these figures are military or political heroes. In Greek culture many of them were figures of the false gods they believed in.

(Acts 7:43) "YOU ALSO TOOK ALONG THE TABERNACLE OF MOLOCH AND THE STAR OF THE GOD ROMPHA, THE (tupos) IMAGES WHICH YOU MADE TO WORSHIP THEM. I ALSO WILL REMOVE YOU BEYOND BABYLON."

Some of you may remember the Iraq invasion a number of years ago. At the entrance of the city was a large statue of Saddam Hussein. When Saddam's army was defeated, the statue of Saddam was taken down, which was shown around the world on TV. The statue of Saddam is not unusual. In fact, it is quite common, particularly in other parts of the world. Leaders and military heroes have statues of themselves displayed in prominent places of the city. This is how the word tupos is used in Acts 7:43.

Elders need to be visible to the people. They can't just show up at church on Sunday. They have to be before the people so that the people can look up to them and see the example of Christ at all times. The elders' example need to remind people of how to live.

In Matthew 5:15-16, Jesus says that lamps need to be put on lampstands so that they give light to all who are in the house. He goes on to say that we need to let our light shine before men in such a way that they may see our good works, and glorify God in heaven. The significance of us being examples of men of godly character is that other people can see the light of Christ. They can look up to us and see our good works and glorify God in heaven.

(Mat 5:15-16) "Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. {16} "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

In 1994, I had to go through the PGA Tour Qualifying Tournament to regain my PGA Tour card. The final stage was held at the Jack Nicklaus course at the La Quinta Golf Resort in Palm Springs, California. It is a six round final where the top 35 golfers earn their PGA Tour card for the next year. On the very last hole of the tournament, I thought that I needed a birdie to gain my card. My normal game plan was to hit a long iron or fairway wood off the tee. However, to make birdie on the hole required a shorter iron into

the tucked pin position. Therefore, under the circumstances I hit driver. Unfortunately, my shot barely missed the fairway and hit the edge of a bunker. It careened to the right and went into the edge of the water. I had to take a drop. Then, another unfortunate thing happened, the ball plugged where I dropped it. I ended up making a 7 on the hole and missed by one shot. If I had known that I only needed a double bogey to get my tour card, I would have played to my normal game plan.

God gave me an incredible joy and peace as I came off the course. One of the reporters from Sports Illustrated was watching my reactions and my post interviews. A few months later, he called me and asked if SI could do a story on me and my family. They did a three page article. I was able to share our life with the world.

Sometimes it is during difficult circumstances and our darkest hours that our light will shine before men. When we have these opportunities, it is the character of Christ that must shine through us. The significance is that we must be the role models for people around us. We must be the lamp on the lampstand that causes people to glorify our Father in heaven.

In Psalms 67, we pray for God to be gracious to us, to bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us. Why? Because when God blesses us and causes His face to shine upon us, people take notice of what God is doing in our lives. It broadcasts God's ways on the earth. It testifies of God's salvation among the nations. It causes people to praise God.

(Psa 67:1-3) "(For the choir director; with stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song.) God be gracious to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us--  
Selah. {2} That Thy way may be known on the earth, Thy salvation among all nations. {3} Let the peoples praise Thee, O God; Let all the peoples praise Thee."

Guys, do not be afraid for God to raise you up. Pray for God to raise you up and to bless you. Pray for this so that others can see the light set on a lampstand. Pray that others will see God's ways through your life. Pray that this visibility will be for His glory, not for your glory and comfort.

### 3. **Imprint or Scar**

Another use of the word tupos is as an imprint or scar: When Thomas doubts Jesus' resurrection from the dead, he says he will not believe unless he sees the (tupos) imprint in his hand.

John 20:25 "The other disciples therefore were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I shall see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

Paul speaks of sharing in the sufferings of Christ. He bore the scars or marks of Christ. He said in Galatians 6:17 "From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus." (The word for brand-marks is stigma, not tupos.) Brothers, as we stand up for the issues facing our generation: abortion, euthanasia, fornication, adultery, public prayer, freedom to preach the gospel, etc., we may get a few scars of Christ. Am I ready and willing to be scarred? Are you willing?

Another aspect of a scar is that the sore has healed. Men, you and I will go through some things in our lives. There will be some wounds. But, we must be men who get over it. We need to get healed up. Sometimes we have to confess our sins to others to get healed up. Sometimes, we have to take some time out for rest and to get healed. Sometimes, we just have to forgive and forgive and forgive. We have to let God deal with the other person(s). Our part is to forgive and let go. If we hold on to the sins of others, it can turn into bitterness and cause many to be defiled. Inasmuch as it depends on us, we are to be at peace with all men.

When Jesus was on the cross, He looked down at the soldiers who had put the nails in his hands and feet. Instead of lashing out at them in anger, He prays, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." The wounds became scars instead of infections because there was forgiveness. When we suffer for Christ, we have to have the same attitude that Christ had. Father, forgive them.

(Luke 23:34) "But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves."

In the Old Testament, any priest who had an open wound (scab) was not allowed to serve as a priest until his wound was healed. (See Leviticus 21:20.) The purpose of this was that nothing with a defect was to go into the presence of the Lord. Also, it was to prevent the spread of infection or disease. However, in the spiritual realm, we cannot effectively minister to people while we have open wounds. We must get healed up.

The significance of this is that we must be men of courage who will stand up and suffer

for what is right. We must also be men who are healed and whole so that we can effectively minister to others.

One final note on scars is that most of them are not visible. Guys, Duffy spoke about being transparent and vulnerable a couple of months ago. Duffy does not have any hidden scars. The imprints and scars of Christ in his life are there for people to touch, feel and see. Are we willing to let others see the hurts in our lives? Are we willing to let people see the areas that we have been wounded? Are we willing to let people see God's grace in our lives? This weekend provides a great opportunity for deeper fellowship and transparency with your brothers.

#### **4. A form or manner**

Another way that the word *tupos* is used is as a form or manner. When the commander wrote to Felix in Acts 23 telling him about why he was sending Paul to him, it says he wrote a letter having this form. We use form letters all the time in the business world. The form is like a style that is used. It is an example of what to write for a certain occasions or matter.

(Acts 23:25) "And he wrote a letter having this form (*tupos*):"

At our work, I have a folder on the network called MDS forms. In that folder I have templates for creating memos, meeting notes, business letters, etc. The templates include our logo and key ingredients for that particular form. Any employee can access these forms and use them. It helps our business have consistency. It ensures that key items and components are included in our communication. It also helps our staff work efficiently.

In addition to the forms, we have some form letters for our staff to use. There are two well control certifications that are required around the world. One is the International Well Control Forum (IWCF) and the other is the International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC). Our company offers both certifications. The IWCF tests are not very easy to pass. If a person fails the test, he has 60 days in which to re-test in the portions that he failed. We are required to send out a letter to the unsuccessful candidates to inform them of their results and their options. We had the challenge of writing a business "Dear John" letter. It needed to be truthful, clear, and helpful. Truth can be difficult for people to swallow sometimes. Therefore, this letter needed to be worded carefully. As the manager, I took time to carefully draft this form letter. Once it read just right, then I made it available to our staff. They simply put in the unsuccessful candidate's name and address, and send it off to him.



In the same way, people need to be able to take the form letter of our lives and plug in their names. Our lives must be carefully drafted so that they read just right. Who is the one that is drafting the letter of our life? In Hebrews 12, we are told how to run the race that is set before us. We are told to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Guys, the letter of our life is being written by Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. We need to be an open slate before God so that He can write whatever He wants on our pages. We need to keep our eyes and our focus on Him. That is the only way that the form letter of our life is going to be accurate and useful to others.

(Heb 12:2) "fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

As individuals, all of our lives are going to be different. We have different gifts, abilities, talents, callings, etc. However, when people see our lives, they need to see a form letter. They need to be able to put their name and life into that form letter and be able to use it. Our wives need this form letter. Our children need this form letter. Our business associates and employees need the form letter. The letter of their lives should be able to be written using our lives as their form letters. The significance of this is that people should be able to use the letter of our life to write the letter of their life.

## **5. A pattern**

The final meaning of tupos is a pattern. In Acts 7:44, Luke refers to an account of Moses meeting with the Lord. During that meeting with God, he was given a pattern for the sanctuary. He was to build this sanctuary according to the pattern. The Greek word for pattern that is used here is the word tupos.

Acts 7:44 "Our fathers had the tabernacle of testimony in the wilderness, just as He who spoke to Moses directed him to make it according to the pattern which he had seen."

When I was in high school, I was an excellent tennis player. I could easily beat anyone on the tennis team in high school, but I could not play both golf and tennis. I had already made a decision to play professional golf, not tennis. Therefore, I only played recreational tennis. When I went to college and met Karen, I discovered that she was an excellent seamstress. At that time in her life she made all of her own clothes. When she saw that I needed some tennis shorts, she bought a pattern and made me some white tennis shorts. I watched her pin the white material onto the pattern, cut it out, and then sew it all together. Seamstresses use patterns all the time. I have watched Karen making her own clothes, costumes for plays, nativity scenes, and other things. She used different patterns for each different outfit. The costume was going to look like the picture on the pattern package if she used the pattern correctly. The significance of this is that people need to be able to pin the fabric of their lives up against us, cut it out, sew it together, and be clothed with Christ.

I used to work at a Graphic Design firm as a Project Manager. We designed environmental graphics, such as wayfinding and identification signs. We showed clients a virtual representation of their proposed signs. Then, we produced contract drawings for vendors to create that sign.

Men, you and I are called to be the virtual drawings and renderings of the character of a man of God. If the world today is going to buy into Christianity, they need to be convinced by the virtual renderings that they see in our lives. If our children are going to follow after God in their lives, they are going to have to see a product in our lives that they want in their lives.

God had a design in mind when He gave Moses the pattern. He had a design in mind when He gave Noah the dimensions for the ark. He has a pattern in mind for your life and my life. The pattern that He has for our character is what we are going to be looking at this weekend. It is the pattern for elders. You and I are to hold up this pattern and pin our lives to it. Anything that does not fit the pattern needs to be trimmed off. We want our lives to be made according to the pattern He has given us. Guys, why look so intently at the passages of 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1? Because our lives ought to be built according to the pattern of elders and this passage gives the pattern.

Let's pray.



## Following The Example Of The Elders: 1 Peter 5:1-3

## I. Introduction:

- Gene Getz: *The Measure Of A Man*.
- Titus 1:5-9
- 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- Strong's: G5179. tupos, too'-pos; from G5180; a die (as struck), i.e. (by impl.) a stamp or scar; by anal. a shape, i.e. a statue, (fig.) style or resemblance; spec. a sampler ("type"), i.e. a model (for imitation) or instance (for warning):--en- (ex-) ample, fashion, figure, form, manner, pattern, print.

## II. Definitions of Tupos:

1. Tupos is a die. Gal 6:1  
The significance of this is that we need to be men of influence rather than men who are influenced.
2. Tupos is a figure or statue. Acts 7:43, Matt 5:15-16.  
The significance of this is that we need to be men that others can look up to. We are to be a lamp on a lampstand that causes people to glorify God.
3. Tupos is an imprint or scar. John 20:25, Gal 6:17  
The significance of this is that we must be men who will stand up and suffer for what is right. We must be men who are healed and whole so that we can effectively minister to others.
4. Tupos is a form or manner. Acts 23:25  
The significance of this is that the letter of our lives can be used by others to write the letter of their lives.
5. Tupos is a pattern. Acts 7:44  
The significance of this is that people need to be able to pin the fabric of their lives up against us, cut it out, sew it together, and be clothed with Christ. The second reason this is significant is that others are looking at the virtual representation of our lives before they buy into Christianity.

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