A "Normal Man's" Role in the Church

"What am I supposed to do if I'm not an Elder or a Deacon?"

Intro: Recent discussion about Elders' and Deacons' roles in Church…what about the other men?

- What are men "for" in general? We set the tone[1]: Ephesians 5:22-27; 1 Timothy 3:4-5[2]
- Specific instructions for leaders…but all other general instructions apply to all men

Receive Sound Teaching…In Church

1. Constant Biblical encouragement to be in community to avoid "going it alone.[3]"
    a. Hebrews 10: 23-24
    b. Ecclesiastes 4:9 (two are better than one)
    c. Before anything else, you have to be present in church to receive the benefits of the community of believers
2. Why must I be in an actual local church?
    a. The Church is described as a community of saints who are no longer strangers and aliens (Ephesians 2:19-22)[4].
    b. Leaders commanded to be hospitable (1 Tim 3:2) which implies community[5]
3. Leaders are appointed for your instruction…and those leaders serve in the local church
    a. 1 Timothy 4:6-16
    b. Titus 2:1-2; 6-9
    c. Notice the commands to teach, display, and be an example. How can that happen unless the men are present?

Biblical Instructions on Character and Behavior

1. Encouragement toward "Gravitas[6]" and instructions to be "Sober-minded"
    a. Specific instructions to older men (Titus 2:2): sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness—learned through God-given experience
    b. Specific instructions to younger men (Titus 2:6a): self-controlled. Direct your youthful energy and "zeal" toward service to the church.[7]
    c. The idea in Titus here is that Older and younger are working together for mutual benefit
2. Specific behaviors:
    a. Seek peace, be gentle, be respectful (Titus 3:1-3)
    b. Foster community rather than division (Titus 3:10-11; Romans 12:9-12)
    c. Love good, reject evil, be fervent in spirit and prayer (Romans 12:9-12)
    d. Paul's charge in Romans 12 to be zealously serve the Lord and zeal for good works in Titus 2 leads to service in the local church

Serve the Church

1. We were given Spiritual Gifts to build up the church
    a. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11—Intro to gifts and what they are for
    b. Ephesians 4:16—each part works together to build up in love
2. Not everyone has the same gifts
    a. 1 Corinthians 12:27-31

3. The "household of faith" vs. loving our neighbor
    a. Luke 10:25-37—Jesus clarifies what it means to love your neighbor as yourself
    b. Galatians 6:10—Paul teaches in the Spirit that we owe more to the "household of faith"
    c. Those who profess faith in Christ commit to care for His Church…publicly affirmed in our membership vows[8]
4. Command to give to the local church
    a. 1 Corinthians 9:1-12—Contribute to the local church to sustain its leadership to proclaim the Gospel and instruct God's people
    b. 2 Corinthians 8:1-15—description of Macedonian churches giving to provide relief for other saints
5. Do everything out of love
    a. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3—What good is any of this service if it is not done in love for each other?
6. Specific needs here at SMPC
    a. Teaching/Ruling Elders and Deacons are pretty well engaged and are few
    b. SMPC Facility needs—setup, transition, maintenance
    c. People move in and out of Vegas all the time…the church can help them
    d. Labor or time-intensive personal needs in the church managed by officers
    e. Teach young men to be men—character traits and skills

Conclusions in the Gospel

1. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21—we are reconciled to God…therefore we share that message with others
    a. You are saved by God the Father, through Christ, in the Spirit for a purpose…
    b. …therefore what do we do? Do what the word says out of gratitude to God
2. Men set the tone for this through the leadership commanded of us in Scripture
3. We must do so out of love for one another (1 Corinthians 13:3)

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[1] DeYoung, Kevin; "The Redeemed Man Serving in his Church" printed in *The Redeemed Man*;
[2] Calvin, John; Commentary on 1st Timothy; page 61
[3] Michael E. Osborne, "Why Church Membership?," Tabletalk Magazine, November 2, 2018, https://tabletalkmagazine.com/posts/why-church-membership/.
[4] William Boekestein, "4 Traits of Healthy Church Membership," Ligonier Ministries, August 4, 2014, https://learn.ligonier.org/articles/4-traits-healthy-church-membership
[5] Ibid.
[6] DeYoung, "Redeemed Man".
[7] Ibid.
[8] Osborne, "Why Church Membership?"