

The Task of Church Leaders

Alexandra
U.S.A.

1 Timothy 3 vs 1-7

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If Paul were in S.A. to-day and as apostle had previously visited Alexandria congregation, and is now writing about the responsibility of the church leaders in our congregation, what would he have written and said? If he was aware of the violence in our township, of the serious unemployment, of the terrible situation of lack of housing (homelessness), of the feelings of ~~insecurity~~ ^{insecurity & fear}, insecurity & fear, would he have made any reference to it? Would he have indicated to the church leaders that they had a task to fulfill and a duty to perform in this regard?

rape & abuse of women

If I read all Paul's letters to the different congregations and if I see how regularly he raises the issues & problems of the Community, I cannot imagine that he would not have said something about these problems. Because the effect of violence on human beings, violence, hunger, homelessness, rape, insecurity, fear are all issues

What ~~stuck~~ strikes me most:

- 1) High spiritual & moral standards he lays down for all church leaders
 - see 1 Tim 3
- 2) His deep conviction that every congregation should see itself as a community loving & caring community
 (do not exist only as individuals where the one says: I've got nothing to do with the others)
- 3) The need to support one another in positive criticism, spirit of humility, solidarity of faith