To begin this lesson, I'd like you to observe the quality of Christian men in the churches of the first century.

- **1. Foolish men:** The church at Corinth was shamed by the fact that not one man among its number had wisdom to settle disputes (1Co 6:5-6).
- **2. False men:** The congregation at Ephesus had men among its number who would rise up and teach perverse things (Acts 20:17, 28-30).
- **3. Faithful men:** The congregation of Jerusalem had no trouble finding among its number men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, and able to take charge of an important task (Acts 6:2-3).

Obviously men of the third kind are those we need among the congregations of Christ. The New Testament *sets the pattern* for faithful men who will ensure a congregation's future.