

1 Timothy 3

Day 1

Church Leadership: Overseers. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7

1. What did Paul say about the ministry of an overseer/bishop? 3:1

- What goals does Ephesians 4:11,12 give for leadership?

FYI: Overseer/bishop Strong's NT:1984 *episkope*, inspection; by implication, superintendence

"*Episkopos* means 'watcher, patron, protector.' Today many would call this man a 'pastor' if he is a vocational minister serving the church, or an 'elder' if he leads in addition to his regular occupation." - Charles Swindoll (55)

"The word is interchangeable with another Greek word, *presbyteroi* ('elders') – Acts 20:17,28 and Titus 1:5 indicate they are synonymous."
- R. Kent Hughes (77)

2. How sacred was calling of an overseer? Acts 20:28

- What blessings did Paul give to them? Acts 20:32 (See Acts 14:23)

3. List the qualifications Paul gives for an overseer/bishop's personal life in 3:2-3. (Compare different translations.)

(His reputation) (3:2) - *Above reproach (NIV) /blameless (NKJ)*

(His marriage) -

(Character) -

-

-

(Ministry) -

-

(Temperance) (3:3) -

(Temperament) -

-

(Money) -

FYI: Temperate/sober Strong's NT:3524 *nephaleo*; sober, i.e. (figuratively) circumspect

Husband of one wife "It means, literally, 'a one woman man'...the most likely meaning is that sexual faithfulness to one's spouse was demanded...in contrast to the widespread infidelity of that day. **Not quarrelsome** Literally, 'disinclined to fight.' The false teachers were given to contention and quarrels (6:3-5, 2 Timothy 2:23-25)

Love of money – Again, in contrast, the false teachers were concerned about financial gain (6:5-10)." - Coleman and Peace (26,27)

"The husband of one wife was a necessary stipulation in a culture in which men often took more than one."

- Tony Evans (1433)

Article: "What About Polygamy in the Bible?"

<https://answersingenesis.org/family/marriage/what-about-polygamy-in-the-bible/>



4. Considering the assembly of early churches, why would **hospitality** be an important quality for a leader to have? What does 1 Peter 4:9 add to this? (For examples of churches meeting in homes see: 1 Corinthians 16:19; Philemon 2)

FYI: "Overseers must be willing to open up their homes to guests. It was a common practice in the first century to offer hospitality to travelers since the inns were notorious for their dirt and immorality, not to mention their expense (see 5:10; Rom 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9)." - Coleman and Peace (26)

5. What did Paul say about an overseer's **home life**? 3:4 Why was this important? 3:5 (Compare Titus 1:6)

FYI: Manage his own family well: "To competently manage one's home or congregation does not mean that no problems arise. Rather, it means that when they do, a man takes responsibility for addressing them biblically." - Tony Evans (1434)

"Generally speaking, recognizing that healthy children act their age and teenagers sometimes spin out of control, we should ask, does the man create a calm, structure home environment? Does he hold his children to reasonable expectations that instill a sense of personal dignity? Do they esteem him and show him honor?" - Swindoll (58,59)

6. What problems might a new convert face by being a leader? 3:6 *Have you ever seen this happen? Why might a more mature Christian not succumb to pride as easily?*

7. Notice Paul addressed a leader's reputation again in 3:7. Why is having a **good reputation** with outsiders so important? *What harm do you think a bad reputation can have on a leader, on the people he leads or on those outside the church?*

- What about sins in the past? (See 1:15,16)

FYI: "People outside the church appreciate honesty, fair play, integrity, kindness, hospitality, sensibility, and all the best qualities we hope to find in an overseer...We are, after all, hoping to influence our community for the sake of the gospel...therefore, our good reputation should begin with our church leaders." - Charles Swindoll (60)

8. Compare what Peter said about the duties of an overseer. 1 Peter 5:1-4
9. What was Paul saying about how circumspect a person should be about taking this position and how carefully leaders should be picked?

FYI: "It is interesting that in Paul's comment about leadership he says nothing about the *duties* of such leaders. He only defines their *qualifications*. The assumption is that they know what they were supposed to do...The problem is not with the performance of duties but with a deviance in life-style and teaching." - Coleman and Peace (26)

Applying the Word: *Who is someone that you have seen open their home to minister to others? In what ways did they do this? What blessings did you see coming from that?*

Day 2

Church Leadership: Deacons. Read 1 Timothy 3:8-13

10. What qualifications did Paul give for deacons? 3:8 *Many believe the office of deacons arose from the circumstances presented in Acts 6:1-6. (How did these men help the 12 apostles? How did they help with the unity of believers and the spread of the gospel? Interestingly, Paul described himself as a deacon: 1 Cor. 3:5.*

FYI: Deacon Strong's NT:1249 *diakonos*; probably from an obsolete *diako* (to run on errands...); an attendant, i.e. (genitive case) a waiter "servant, attendant"

"The whole idea of being a deacon carried with it this same basic servant mentality. A deacon serves the needs of the congregation with sensitivity, efficiency, compassion, and skill..."

Not insincere/Double-tongued refers to discretion as well as being without duplicity. Qualified deacons know how to keep matter in confidence...Deacons behave the same during the week as they do in church...Words, deed, and reality remain in sync." - Charles Swindoll (64,66)

11. What other qualification did deacons need to have? 3:9 (See 1 Corinthians 4:2)

- Why would this be important considering the problems in 1 Timothy 1:6,7,19?
- In what ways do you see the qualifications in 3:8,9 equipping and protecting deacons who were out in the community taking care of difficult details and sensitive people?

FYI: Holding to the deep truths of faith The deacon must cling to the gospel in faith and consistently live out its truth by serving. Deacons are the hands and feet of the church, more directly than that of other offices. Therefore, the apostle called for deacons to embody sincerity, moral purity, and submission to biblical truth." - Charles Swindoll (66)

12. What did Jesus say about serving? Mark 10:43-45

FYI: "In [God's] kingdom, the servant is the greatest of all. In the Christian world, no title bears greater honor or more dignity than that of 'servant.' What a marvelous compliment to be called 'deacon'" - R. Kent Hughes

"We all serve in the church. Deacons *lead* the church in service." - Platt et al. (59)

13. Why do you think being "tested/proved" (3:10) is crucial for appointing a deacon and for the people they serve? (Cross-ref. 3:6; 5:22)

- What did Jesus say about proven responsibility? Luke 16:10

14. Underline the goal of the use of our gifts and service.

- 1 Thessalonians 2:4 But just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not intending to please people, but *to please* God, who examines our hearts. NAS
- 1 Peter 4:10-11 As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the multifaceted grace of God. ¹¹Whoever speaks *is to do so as one who is speaking* actual words of God; whoever serves *is to do so as one who is serving* by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- Ephesians 4:11-13 And He gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, some as pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

15. Although it is good to desire to be a leader (3:1), what wrong motives do you think someone can have for seeking a position of leadership? For what wrong/worldly reasons can people be sometimes be *chosen to lead*?

FYI: "Church leadership can attract people with mixed and sometimes out rightly sinful motives. The seeming prestige of spiritual leadership attracts some. The lure of power draws others. The spiritual directing of others' lives can be heady stuff....All these motives are empty pursuits...I say all this to emphasize that Christian ministry and leadership is without question a matter of character. One's authentic spirituality and Christian character is everything in church leadership. It is a sober fact that as goes the leadership so goes the church...Paul wanted the church to have leaders whole lives would grace the church and adorn the gospel before a needy world." - Kent Hughes (76)

16. What were the qualifications for a "woman/wife"? 3:11

FYI: "The Greek word rendered wives...could also be rendered 'women.' Thus, it could be referring to the wives of deacons or to females deacons...It would be odd for Paul to provide qualifications for deacon's wives but say nothing about overseer's wives in 3:1-7." - Tony Evans (1434)

17]. What did Paul say about a deacon's family life? 3:12 (Cross-ref 3:4,5)

FYI: "He must be a one-woman man. No other woman can have his affections martially, mentally, or emotionally. His wife ought to occupy his full horizon. He must love her as he loves himself...He rejects as treachery anything that would alter his loving focus. A one-wife man places his wife at the center of his heart." - R. Kent Hughes (87)

18]. What two rewards does faithfully fulfilling the office of a deacon bring? 3:13

Applying the Word: Which of the qualities Paul listed do you cherish most in a leader? Which would you most like to cultivate in your own life?

Do you know someone who gives selflessly and quietly in service to others? Take time to thank them personally or write a note of gratitude.

FYI: "As [Paul] evangelized the Roman Empire between Antioch and Athens, founding churches and training leaders, he gradually added choice men to his entourage. He plucked Titus from his home base of Antioch (Gal. 2:1-3), Timothy from the city of Lystra (Acts 16:1-3), Tychicus from Ephesus or Colossae (Acts 20:4), Trophimus from Ephesus (Acts 21:29), and Gaius and Aristarchus from Macedonia (Acts 19:29), just to name a few. Then, near the end of his ministry, Paul deployed them in key churches to continue the work he had begun. Now, having posted Timothy in the dizzying, distorted city of Ephesus, Paul encouraged his choice assistant to find other worthy men capable of 'ruling well.'" - Charles Swindoll (109)

Day 3

The Church's Calling. Read Timothy 3:14 -15

19]. What was the reason for and purpose of Paul's letter? 3:14,15 What does that indicate about some of the challenges/questions that Timothy was having?

FYI: hope to come to you soon "In constructing [Paul's] itinerary after the first Roman imprisonment, we know he 'left' Titus on Crete (Titus 1:5) and encouraged Timothy to 'remain' at his post in Ephesus while on his way to Macedonia (1:3). Most likely, Timothy had been ministering in Ephesus for some time during Paul's imprisonment and met the apostle for a brief visit in Miletus. Paul had used that port once before...(Acts 20:15-17). At the time he wrote Titus, Paul intended to spend the next winter in Nicopolis, on the far side of mainland Greece, a long distance from Ephesus. Then something changed his plans. We don't know if Paul ever made it to Macedonia. I tend to think he did, but Timothy's crisis in Ephesus persuaded him to reverse course. Whatever the circumstances, he clearly sent this letter ahead to buoy Timothy's confidence, to establish an enduring charter for the church in Ephesus, and to reinforce Timothy's authority as their spiritual leader." - Charles Swindoll (71)

"**Conduct in the church** was such a concern to Paul that virtually all of chapters 2 and 3 are a call to exemplary conduct - to holy behavior and uncontentious prayer (2:1-8), modest dress (2:9,10), Biblical church order (2:11-15), and godly elders and deacons (3:1-13)." - R. Kent Hughes (92)

20. List the phrases Paul used to describe the church in 3:15b. *What do these convey about the high calling the church has? What does this say about relative truth?*

21. What does “**household of God**” say to you about the fellowship/unity of the church?

- As members of **God’s** household, what conduct and witness to the world should we display?
- How did Paul describe the church in Galatians 6:10 and Ephesians 2:19,22

22. Underline what our witness should be like and the effect it can have on others.

- Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. NIV
- John 13:34-35 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” NIV
- Titus 2:7-8 in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us. NAS
- Philippians 2:14-16 Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life NAS
- 1 Peter 2:12,15 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us... 15 For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorance of foolish men.

23. As the “church of the **living God**”, what relationship do we have with God? John 14:19-23; Ephesians 3:17

FYI: “Because God is the living God, He can hear; because He is a loving God, He will hear; because He is our covenant God, He has bound Himself to hear.”
– Charles Spurgeon

“It is obvious that a man’s understanding is dead when he can worship a dead god; but you and I, beloved, ‘trust in the **living God**.’ He is the God who made heaven and earth, and all that is in them; He is the God who supports the whole universe by the power of His almighty arm; He is the God who rules and overrules in nature, providence, and grace; he is the true God, the only real God; — no dream God, no phantom or myth conjured up by imagination, but a real God, the only living and true God. May we worship Him, then, with real worship, real adoration, and true sincerity of heart!

- “Trust in the Living God” A Sermon Delivered On... August 5, 1875, By C. H. Spurgeon, At The Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington.

<https://answersingenesis.org/education/spurgeon-sermons/2963-trust-in-the-living-god/>

24. Because we serve a living God, underline what we can trust that He is doing *in us, through us and for us*. *Underline the things that stand out to you, comfort, or convict you.*
- Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. NIV
 - Philippians 2:13 For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. NLT.
 - Colossians 1:29 To this end I also labor, striving with all His energy working powerfully within me. NAS
 - Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.
 - Jude 1:24 To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy--
 - 2 Thess. 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.
 - 2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.
 - Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,
 - 2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (KJV)
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.
 - Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
 - Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.
 - Romans 8:34 Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, but rather, was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
25. What do you think it means to be the “**support and pillar of truth**”? (See John 17:17)
How high a calling and important a witness does this give believers?

FYI: Foundation/support/ground Strong's NT:1477 *hedraion*;

“to make stable. A support, stay, ground, basis, foundation.” - The Complete Word Study Dictionary NT

“The church has the privilege and responsibility of **preserving** God's Word: *we hold it firm*. From age to age, from generation to generation, we have the responsibility of **passing** this Word on, holding it fast, and defending it against false teaching that would threaten it...Our second responsibility is **proclaiming** God's word: *we hold it high*. Like the columns [pillars] of the temple, we lift high the truth of the Word. We want this Word to shine so that the world will see and hear and know the only true God...So we are *the expression of God's family, the dwelling place of God's presence, and the guardians of God's Word.*”
- Platt et al. (69)

Applying the Word: *With whom are you most able to pass on and lift high the truth of God's word? What are gentle ways that you can do this even with unbelievers?*

Day 4

The Person and Work of Christ. Read Timothy 3:16

26. What subject does 3:16a address? (*Some believe 3:16 to be an early hymn.*)

FYI: "To have **godliness** is to have God-consciousness, a God-centeredness that permeates everything you do...But what is the '**mystery of godliness**'? When Paul talks about a mystery, he is not talking about something unsolved or difficult to figure out. He is talking about something that was hidden for a time but now has been revealed (Ryken)"
 - Platt et al. (69,70)

27. Underline the phrases that describe how Christ was:

Revealed/manifested in the flesh:

- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- Philippians 2:7,8a Rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!
- Colossians 2:9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,
- Hebrews 2:14¹⁴ Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, so that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,
- 1 John 1:2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us (*Contrast 2 John 7*)

Justified/vindicated/verified by the Spirit

- Matthew 3:16,17 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.
- John 5:36 But the testimony I have is greater than *the testimony of John*; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish—the very works that I do—testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me.
- Romans 1:4 And who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all *time*, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit
- Acts 2:32-33 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.³³ Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

FYI: Vindicated "Christ's miracles, climaxing in his resurrection, were demonstrations of his deity, sure evidences that He was the sinless Son of God. (The word *vindicated* is *edikaiothe*, usually translated 'justified.')

- The Expositors Bible Commentary

Seen by angels

- Luke 2:8-11 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.
- Matthew 4:10,11 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil... ¹¹ Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and *began to serve* Him.
- Luke 22:40-43 And He came out and went, as was His habit, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples also followed Him... ⁴¹ And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and *began to pray*, ⁴² saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done." ⁴³ Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him
- 28:1-6 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. ² And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone, and sat upon it... ⁵ And the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying...
- Acts 1:9-11 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were watching, and a cloud took Him up, out of their sight. ¹⁰ And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, then behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them, ¹¹ and they said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

Preached/proclaimed among the nations

- Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth."
- Romans 15:19-20 By the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. ²⁰ It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.

Believed on in the world

- John 1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God—
- Acts 11:21 The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

Received/taken up in glory

- Philippians 2:9-11 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.;
- Luke 24:50,51 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

- Hebrews 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven
 - Ephesians 1:19-21...That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.
28. By recounting the life of Jesus from His coming to earth to His heavenly ascension, what was Paul emphasizing about the foundation of truth believers have been given?
- How would those truths stand up against the false teachings that denied Christ's deity and His power to redeem and save those who believe?
 - What would this say about trusting in anything or anyone other than Christ for salvation?

FYI: "In telling these truths in verse 16, Paul was not only proclaiming who Jesus is, but he was also saying to the church, 'Realize what this means for you, for godliness in your life and godliness in the church. This is the awe-inspiring reality that Christ lives within you! This Christ, the Son of God incarnate, the One who was verified by the Spirit, raised from the dead, praised among angels, proclaimed across the earth, believed on as Savior, and crowned as King over all the universe, lives in you. Let that soak in. The Son of God resides in you giving you power, strength and grace. Godliness, or the God-centered life, is nothing more than the overflow of Christ in you...Jesus has conquered sin, death, and the grave, and He now reigns from heaven as the ascended Lord. Because He lives in you, you have nothing to fear...There is nothing like the church in all the world, no other body more significant in all of history, nor will there ever be."
- Platt et al. (71)

"Here is the point: The magnificent Christ of this grand confession makes possible the godly conduct that Paul so earnestly desires. We are the church. We are the family – 'Gods' household.'...We are the church of the living God" He lives in each of us. We together are 'the pillar and foundation of the truth.' And because of this, what we believe and confess about Christ is everything. ...

Because we are the church, and because we confess such a Christ, we can and must conduct ourselves in a way that brings glory to Him. As the apostle told another church. 'So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God' (1 Corinthians 10:31)"
- R. Kent Hughes (96)

Applying the Word: *What human reasonings or earthly pursuits distract or draw you away from the truth that is found only in Christ? When has the truth of the gospel of Christ corrected the way you thought about a religious teaching, doctrine or tradition?*