

# 1 Timothy

## CHAPTER 3:1-13

### Lesson 5

Paul closed 1 Timothy 2 with a description of the roles of men and women in the church. 1 Timothy 3 describes the qualifications the church is to expect of those who *desire* church leadership positions. These are not stringent requirements of perfection, but a checklist of lifestyles and behaviors that dominate a leader's life. May your study of this section provoke not only the proper expectations of church leaders, but a deeper appreciation of those who serve.

### Read 1 Timothy 3:1-13

1. Read through this week's verses using at least two Bible translations or paraphrases. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. The contrasting term, *but*, is used twice in 1 Timothy 3:1-13. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.
3. The word not is used 12 times in this passage. List the five references where NOT is used.
4. According to the New Testament, the terms *bishop*, *pastor*, and *elder* are synonymous. Each has a responsibility of overseeing people in the church.
  - a. List the positive attributes of a *bishop*.
  - b. What attributes is a *bishop* NOT to have?

## Read 1 Timothy 3:1

1. Paul began this section with the words, *this is a faithful saying*. What did he write?
  - a. We might miss the first word that marks the criteria of a *bishop*. It is important that he *desire the position*. Why is this important?
2. Consider the one who *desires* to be a *bishop*, is seeking not the title, but the *work*. What do you see as some of the *work* expected of a church leader?
3. Carefully write the words of 1 Peter 2:25.
  - a. In what ways is Jesus the *bishop of your soul*?
4. What is your understanding of:  
the joys of being a *bishop*?  
  
the sorrows or challenges of being a *bishop*?

## Read 1 Timothy 3:2-7

1. In this section, Paul describes the expectations we should have of those who oversee us. Using a Bible dictionary or your own words, define the following (note: these are the positive attributes of a *bishop*)

*blameless*

*husband of one wife* (one-woman man)

*temperate*

*sober-minded*

*of good behavior*

*hospitable*

*able to teach*

*gentle* (verse 3)

*one who rules his household well*

*having his children in submission with all reverence*

2. Paul further explained the qualification of verse 4 in verse 5. How does ruling a household compare to *taking care of the church of God*?

- a. How does this help you understand that Paul is not stating that a bishop have perfectly obedient children?
- b. Describe the leadership Paul may be seeking when he wrote of a man who *rules his own house well*.

3. Add to your list in question #1, the requirement of verse 7:

*a good testimony among those who are outside*

- a. As in all requirements of a *bishop*, his behavior is to be the same inside as well as outside the church. Why is this an important requirement?
- b. What reason does Paul give for requiring that a bishop have a *good testimony*?

1.) Record the following verses.

2 Corinthians 6:3

Titus 2:8

1 Peter 5:8

- a.) How do these verses apply to 1 Timothy 3:7?

4. 1 Timothy 3:3,6 describe attributes or behaviors a bishop should **NOT** have. Define each one using a Bible dictionary or your own words.

*given to wine*

*violent*

*greedy for money*

*quarrelsome*

*covetous*

*novice*

- a. What reasoning does Paul give for him not to be a novice?
- b. Why do you think someone who is a leader in the church should not be described as having any of these behaviors?

### **Read 1 Timothy 3:8-13**

1. *Deacons* are also overseers but are not those who ordinarily *teach*. Most requirements are the same. Scan them and record any that appear to be different or are not included in the requirements of a *bishop*.
2. Notice in verse 10, that they are (as are bishops) to be *tested*. Those who would be church leaders should first be recognized by their conduct. Why is it important to recognize not only a person's gifts, but also test their conduct?
3. What encouragement is given in verse 13?
  - a. The motivation is *a good standing and great boldness which is in Christ Jesus*. Explain what this means.

## Review 1 Timothy 3:1-13

1. How will these verses affect your expectations and appreciation of those in church leadership?
2. What are some expectations of church leaders that some in the church require that Paul did not mention?
3. Lest we become “character checkers” of those who *desire positions* of leadership, scan through the qualifications and check any that you feel do not apply to you. In what ways have you been challenged?

*His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant;  
you were faithful over a few things,  
I will make you ruler over many things.  
Enter into the joy of your lord.'  
- Matthew 25:21*