



Women's R&R Bible Study 2024-2025

"YOUR WORDS WERE FOUND, AND I ATE THEM, AND YOUR WORD WAS TO ME THE JOY AND REJOICING OF MY HEART."

JEREMIAH 15:16

LIVING IN HOPE LESSON 11

Today we'll be studying 1 Timothy chapter 3. Now that Paul has established some guidelines for order of authority between men and women in the church, he now proceeds to give the qualifications for those men who are going to lead the church. Leaders must be a moral and spiritual example. Paul lets us know that it is a high and holy calling and must not be taken lightly. Those in leadership should be held to a higher standard in their spiritual maturity as well as their moral character.

Our temptation as we read this section is to look at the lives of our own leaders to see if they match up. While this is important, let's also take a look at our own lives. Shouldn't these characteristics be something that we desire to find in ourselves too?

I chose the verse below for our memory verse because just this week, another pastor of a "megachurch" was accused and stepped down as a result of an allegation of sexual misconduct with a minor, which, by the way, he admitted. Another testimony destroyed on the "outside." Our leaders **MUST** be held accountable for their actions. (And so should we!)

Memory Verse of the Week: "Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." 1 Timothy 3:7

1. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-16. This chapter can be divided into three sections. Give each section a title that reflects the main point or thought of that section. Write the facts you find, along with any repeated words or phrases.

Section 1: Verses 1-7

Section 2: Verses 8-13

Section 3: Verses 14-16

The word for “bishop” in verse 1 comes from the Greek word “episkopos” and means “overseer.” This is the same word for elder (Acts 20:17, Philippians 1:1, 1 Peter 2:25, Titus 1:5,7). They were the overseers of the local church. They fed the flock by teaching and preaching. They guarded the congregation from spiritual harm (Acts 20:29-31) and were examples to the members (1 Peter 5:3). The Greek word for “deacon” comes from the word “diakonos” which means “servant.” Irving Jensen writes, “The two-office organization of the New Testament church gradually merged into this three-office arrangement in the centuries that followed: (1) pastor (as preacher-teacher-shepherd), (2) elders (assisting the pastor especially in spiritual matters) and (3) deacons (assisting the pastor especially in physical matters, such as the finances of the church). The thing to note here is that the tasks that needed to be done were always present; the titles given to those who performed the tasks varied from church to church and from century to century.”

2. According to section 1, is it okay to want to be an elder?

Why or why not?

In verse one, the first “desire” is better translated “aspire,” meaning to “reach out after.” The second desire refers to an inward, passionate compulsion, or an inward desire.

3. What are an elder’s:

a. Personal qualifications?

b. Public qualifications?

c. Home qualifications?

4. Why is the office of an elder such a “noble” task?
5. Does this section mention any of the “duties” of the elder?
6. **“There is an inseparable link between the character of the church and the quality of the leader.”** What does this quote mean, and do you agree?

In verse 2, Paul says an elder must be blameless, or above reproach. This phrase comes from a Greek word that means “not able to be held.” (He cannot be held as if a criminal, there is nothing against him.) Verse 7 also says that he must have a good reputation from those who were outside the church. (This is a standard, not a demand for perfection.)

7. Why is it so important that an elder have a good reputation? How does he reflect the church?
8. How is your reputation outside the church? Are you blameless in your conduct? Does anyone have anything “against you”? If so, what should you do?
9. Why is it so important that the leaders be able to rule their own house well?
10. How is YOUR house being ruled? Is it in order or out of order? Are your children respectful? Are they submissive? Obedient? (Again, Paul is not demanding perfection but holding to a high principle.)

- 11.** Why is it NOT a good idea to put a new believer into leadership as an elder? What are the dangers? (Read 1 Timothy 5:22)

- 12.** Using a Bible dictionary, concordance, etc., try to define the following character traits:
 - a.** temperate
 - b.** sober-minded
 - c.** hospitable
 - d.** not violent
 - e.** gentle
 - f.** not covetous

- 13.** Leaders are supposed to be examples to those whom they lead. Are you a leader in your home, work, etc.? Are you a good example? How do you measure up with this list?

Paul tells us in **Hebrews 13:17** to “Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.” Think about that. Will your leaders give an account of you with joy?

- 14.** Are there any differences in the list between the elders and deacons?

- 15.** Why do you think they must be “proven” first? Weirsbe said, “An un-tested Christian is an unprepared Christian.” Why?

- 16.** Why do you think Paul included “double-tongued” in their list?

- 17.** Can a man’s wife disqualify him for the role of a deacon?

- 18.** Verse 8 says that a deacon must be reverent, or grave. What does this mean?

- 19.** What is the deacon’s “reward” for being faithful? (vs 13)

Both elders and deacons were called to be “one-woman men.”
(vs 2 and 12) **“This is a man devoted in his heart and mind to his wife. He loves, desires, and thinks only of her. He maintains sexual purity in both his thought life and his conduct.”** They are models of sexual purity.

- 20.** Are you a “one-man woman”? Do you continually guard your heart and mind from sexual impurity? Are your thoughts only for your husband or do you entertain thoughts of others? What does God’s Word say about that? (Philippians 4:8)

- 21.** What specific truth of verses 1-13 has specifically ministered to your heart?

- 22.** In verses 14-16, Paul wraps up by reminding Timothy why he was writing. What does he say?

23. We are God's church. What did He purchase us with? (Acts 20:28)

24. Because we are God's church, doesn't He have the right to govern it?

25. The church is a "pillar and support" of the truth. What is the function of a pillar? How is the church a pillar?

The image of a pillar would be familiar to the Ephesians. The temple of the goddess Diana was located there. William Barclay tells us that the temple contained 127 pillars, every one of them the gift of a king. All were made of marble, and some were studded with jewels and overlaid with gold.

Verse 15 reminds us that we are supposed to uphold, guard, defend, and support the truth of God's Word. That is the mission of the church. Now, in verse 16, Paul tells us the message of the church.

26. How was God manifested in the flesh? (Give Scripture for your answer if possible.)

27. Jesus was seen by angels. This can mean He was observed, or attended to. When were angels involved in the life of Jesus? Read Matthew 28:2, Luke 24:4-7, and Acts 1:10-11.

Jesus gave us the commission to preach among all the nations (Matthew 28:19-20). Jesus is the Savior of the whole world (John 3:16)! He ascended into Heaven, being taken up in glory (Acts 1:9-10). He went home to be with His Father.

28. How does 1 Timothy 3:16 summarize the Gospel?

29. Just to review a little:

A. Why is it so important to pray for your leaders? Are they open for more spiritual attack from the enemy? Why or why not?

B. Are you diligent in praying for the leadership in your church?

C. How can leaders guard themselves from the enemy?

D. How can you guard yourself from the enemy?

We talked a little bit about the role of women in the church last week. This quote reminded me of my responsibility as a woman of God:

“We are called to be women. The fact that I am a woman does not make me a different kind of Christian, but the fact that I am a Christian does make me a different kind of woman.”

(Elisabeth Elliot)

30. Write your comments on the above quote. Do you agree? In what way?

32. Has knowing Christ made you a different kind of woman?

I pray you all had a great time studying God's Word this week. I sure did. There is no better way to use our time. His Word is life changing, isn't it? May we, like Jeremiah, find joy as we "eat" His Word. (Yum Yum!)