

## I Timothy - Chapter 3

### SECTION IV. GOD'S LEADERS FOR HIS CHURCH. 3:1-16

#### I. THE ELDERS. vs. 1-7

A. Two thoughts that introduce the qualifications of an elder:

"It is correct, when a man desires the office of bishop he desires a good work. v 1

1. The man must first DESIRE to do the work required of an elder.
  - a. Instead of the church searching for elders, the men should be searching for the eldership.
  - b. This indicates the growth which is expected in each man.
2. that the eldership is a mission for good work to perform, not just an office to occupy as a figure-head.
3. So we ask the obvious question - "What is the MISSION of the eldership?"
  - a. In Acts 20:28-35, we have a general picture of the overall works of an elder.
  - b. We might list some of the specifics as such:
    1. Refer to the Chart - "A bird's eye view of the elder's job.
    2. Also, look in your notes for the "Eldership at the Ninth Street Church, Eldon, Mo." by Roy Weece.
    3. All other special articles will be helpful here.

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A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE ELDER'S JOB  
(ADAPTED BY DANNY CAMP FROM A CHART PREPARED FOR EVANGELISTS BY P.A. WILLIS).

### CONCERNING NEW MEMBERS

#### A. Establishing new members.

1. Determine their individual needs.
2. Have a well planned program for growth.
3. Follow program until such is improved or proved to be not the correct method for the specific individual.

#### B. Training new members

1. Personal leadership and guidance.
2. Develop a basic training program
  - a. Personal conferences and instruction
  - b. Reading and studying curriculum
  - c. Go over their jobs with them
  - d. Evaluate their progress

### PRESENT MEMBERS

#### A. Giving service to the members.

1. Provide guidance and help in meeting problems.
2. Funerals, hospital care and such are invaluable services.
3. Give personal aid and advice when needed.

#### B. Improving the members individually

1. Analyzing the needs of each individual member.
  - a. Study attendance habits, etc
  - b. Observe behavior in the community.

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2. Teach members how to evaluate the progress they are making spiritually.
3. Help them overcome weaknesses.
4. Motivate and guide them (elders) in their study and other development.
5. Have fresh ideas on the value of the Christian life (this will mean continued study on the part of the elder.)
6. Keep the members informed.

### C. Building morale.

1. Setting practical objectives.
2. Develop these intangibles (will help build unity)
  - a. Team spirit, loyalty and Christian love.
  - b. Mutual respect
  - c. Compassion
  - d. etc and etc

### SHEPHERDS AND ASSISTANTS

- A. Plan the shepherd's program
- B. Have an equable division of the work for the shepherds
- C. Select the shepherd whose personality and characteristics best fit the unit in which he serves.
- D. Train the shepherds and assistants so that they understand what to do and how to do it.
- E. Help each other grow in His service.

### RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WHOLE OF THE CHURCH WORKING TOGETHER.

- A. Committees
- B. Women's work

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- C. Missions
- D. Youth
- E. Bible School
- F. Others that will meet the needs of your community

Gentlemen, I realize this is a huge responsibility. But I firmly believe that men today can fulfil the task. God did not give a job without giving the equipment to complete the work. He has not stranded us today. If you feel unequal to the task you may rest assured that every man, whether elder, deacon or evangelist, who is trying to do God's will in God's way feels the same as you. The ability or power comes not from the individual, IT COMES FROM OUR LIVING GOD. Take heart, He cares for, and will guide you, as you commit your life to His service under His LEADERSHIP.

I realize that these statements are very general. However, the men of each congregation must take the responsibility to see that the family of God is properly shepherded. THAT, MEN, IS THE MISSION OF THE ELDERS WHEREVER YOU SERVE. (dlc)

- B. Now we look at the rest of the qualifications of the eldership as found in I Timothy 3. The bishop must be:(v.2)
  1. Without reproach-αυεπιλαπτου- "not to be taken hold of - irreproachable." Robertson Word Pictures p. 572 Vol. IV. "Not open to censure" - Vine, p. 131.
  2. The husband of one wife - μιας γυναικος - "one at a time clearly." Robertson, p. 572, Vol. IV  
"μιας" is used to signify, "one in contrast to many., Vine p. 137
  3. Temperate - νηφελιον "to be sober", Robertson, p. 572, Vol IV, Word Pictures
  4. Sober minded σωφρονα "Sound mind" Ibid  
"Sound mind - have self-controlled", Vine, p. 44
  5. Orderly κοσμιον "Seemly, decent conduct", Robertson, Word Pictures Vol IV, p 572  
"Same root word is translated "modest" in I Timothy 2:9"  
Vine, P. 145-146
  6. Given to hospitality φιλοξενον love of strangers", Vine, p. 235

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7. Apt to teach διδασκτικον "one qualified to teach", Robertson, Word Pictures, Vol IV, p. 572

8. No Brawler - μη παροινον "one who sits long at (beside) his wine." Robertson, Word Pictures, Vol. IV, p. 572  
Tarrying at wine, given to wine...probably has the secondary sense of the effects of wine-bibbing, viz., abusive brawling. Hence R.V. -- "brawler"-- Vine, p. 146 vs 3

9. No striker - μη πληκτην - "to strike" , Robertson p.572. "A striker, a brawler." I Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7, Vine, p. 83

10. But gentle - αλλα επιεικη - "sweet reasonableness" Matthew Arnold as in Robertson, p. 459 Vol. IV

"...it expresses that considerateness that looks humanely and reasonably at the facts of a case." Vine, pgs. 144 - 145.

11. Not contentious - αμαχον - "not a fighter", Robertson Word Pictures, Vol. IV, p. 573

12. No lover of money - αφιλαργυρον - "Let your manner of life be without love of money." Robertson Word Pictures, Vol V, p. 445

13. Rules his own house well - προισταμενον - to place before, stand before." Robertson Word Pictures, p. 173, Vol. IV.

"Indicating care and diligence." Vine, p. 397

a. His children are to follow his example. v. 4

b. If he cannot lead, by example, his family how can he be expected to lead the Family of God which is more complex in nature than his own family. v.5

c. The same loving care he show to his family (which causes them to follow him), is the same love that will motivate a congregation to follow his example.

14. Not a novice - μη νεοφυτον - "newly planted", Robertson Word Pictures, Vol. IV, p. 573

"Denotes a new convert, neophyte, ne who by inexperience is unfitted to act as a bishop or overseer in a church." Vine, p. 119

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- a. The danger: being "newly planted" he may over-estimate his spiritual depth if placed as an elder too soon.
  - b. If this is done he will fall into the same condemnation as the devil - unrepented pride!
  - c. The bitter end is eternity in hell unless a brother gives great aid as James 5:19-20 indicates.
15. Have a good testimony (report) from them that are without - απο των εξωθεν - v. 7
- a. "That are without" are those outside the church family.
  - b. The elder is to enjoy a fine reputation among the community. Robertson Word Pictures, Vol IV, p. 573 -574
  - c. Snare of the Devil παγίδα του διαβολου "a snare set by the devil. The devil sets special snares for preachers (conceit verse 6, money 6:9, women, ambition)." Robertson, Word Pictures Vol IV, p.574
  - d. It must be realized that the devil does not set traps for PREACHERS ONLY! He is "hunting" for every Christian. (dlc)

## II. THE DEACONS, Verses 8 - 13.

- A. The qualifications as shown in Acts 6:3.
1. Men of good report - μαρτυρουμενους - men with a good reputation. Robertson Word Pictures, p. 73, Vol III.
  2. επι πληρεις πνευματος - Men whose lives were led by God's Spirit as opposed to men who were ruled by the values of the world.
  3. και σοφιας - not only are they led by God's Spirit, they know how to live and apply God's principles to the everyday routine of life. They know how to make Christianity practical! Therefore they were leaders in their congregation.
- B. The qualifications of a deacon as given in I Timothy 3:8 - 13. vs. 8
1. "In like manner" refers back to the elders. The deacons are to be great spiritual men also!

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2. Grave - σεμνος - "The word we want is one in which the sense of gravity and dignity are combined. The word points to seriousness of purpose and to self-respect in conduct." Vine, p. 173
  3. Not double-tongued - μη διλογος - "One placed between two persons and saying one thing to one, another to the other." Robertson Word Pictures, p. 574, Vol. IV.
  4. Not given to much wine - μη σινωι ρολλωι - "Not holding the mind on much wine. That attitude leads to over-indulgence." Ibid, p. 574
  5. Not greedy of filthy lucre - μη αισχροκερδεις - "Making small gains in mean ways." Robertson Word Pictures, p. 574, Vol. IV  
"Filthy gain." Vine, p. 24
  6. Holding the mystery of faith - μυστηριων της πιστεως - "The inner secret of faith, the revelation given in Christ." v. 9. Robertson, Word Pictures, p. 574, Vol. IV.
  7. In a pure conscience - εν καθαρα συνειδησει - "The container in which the wine is to be kept." Ibid, p. 574
  8. First be proved - δοκιμαzesθωσαν πρωτον - "To test as metals are." v. 10. Ibid, p. 574
  9. Then let them serve as a deacon.
    - a. διακονειωσαν - to serve. Ibid, p. 574 - 575
    - b. See "The Deacon's Role In Ministering To The Body" , in the Special Studies section.
  10. If they be blameless - ανεγκλητοιοντες - Signifies that which cannot be called into account...with nothing laid to ones charge (as the result of public investigation). Vine, p. 131
- C. Paul introduces a point of consideration. v. 11
1. Women, in like manner, their lives must be holy, even as the lives of the elders and deacons!
  2. The question that has caused unended controversy through the ages, "who are these 'women' Paul refers to in this passage?"

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a γυναικος - can mean either of the following:

1. Woman
2. Wife
3. Widow
- 4 In Romans 16:1, Paul refers to Phoebe as a servant of the church. The word for servant here is διακονον - Robertson Word Pictures, Vol. IV, p. 425. He uses the general work for deacon in Romans. In I Timothy he uses the word γυναικος, a completely different word. What is the context? Engage the mind in the wonderful activity of thinking and studying. What is your Biblical solution to this question? Another thought provoker--why did Paul put this subject in with the study of the elders and deacons? The answer to the last question will be a great aid to gaining an answer to the question in "2."

3. Be grave - "The word we want is one in which the sense of gravity and dignity are combined. The word points to seriousness of purpose to self-respect in conduct." Vine, p. 173

4. Not slanderers - μη διαβολουσ - "The devil being the chief slanderer, the slanderous woman is literally a she-devil." Robertson Word Pictures, P. 573, Vol. IV

5. Temperate - νηφολιουσ - "To be sober". Ibid

6. Faithful in all things - πιστας εν πασι - Living according to the Lord's leading in all ways. Loyal to all that is required of one to be an example for the Lord. Not trying to please both Satan and Christ.

D. Concluding qualifications of the Deacons. vs. 12-13.

1. Husband of one wife - μιασ γυναικος - μιασ is used to signify one in contrast to many. Vine, p. 137. "One at a time". Robertson Word Pictures, p.573 Vol. IV

2. Ruling children and house well - καλωσ προϊσταμενοι - "Stand before as an example, to place before." Robertson Word Pictures, Vol IV -- See verse 4.

3. When they serve as a deacon should, they:

a. Gain a good standing - βαθμον εαυτοισ καλον - means:



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1. Secure in the faith
2. This would be coupled with holding the mystery in pure conscience.
  - b. Great boldness in the faith - πολλην παρρησιαν εν πιστει – confident in the Christ they serve. Able to do their work as a deacon because they have gained actual experience to go with their spiritual qualifications.
  - c. Their faith is in Christ Jesus. They know He will not let them down. They are encouraged to continually be a servant in His Kingdom.
4. All qualifications must be considered as a unit!

### III. PAUL'S REASONS FOR GIVING THESE GUIDELINES TO TIMOTHY. VERSES 14 - 16

- A. He wrote them as a substitute, and preparation, for his coming to visit Timothy. v 14.
  1. He is encouraging, by instruction, Timothy's ministry.
  2. He hopes to be with Timothy soon.
- B. He wants Timothy to know why these qualifications are given if, for some reason, he is not permitted to meet with Timothy. v. 15
  1. He wants Timothy to be able to teach men how to conduct themselves in God's house the church.
  2. He wants Timothy to know that it is from the church the message of salvation is heard. The church is the ONLY SOUL-SAVING AGENCY ON EARTH!
  3. He builds Timothy's confidence that the message of the church is TRUTH.
  4. This is in opposition to the false teachings of the Jews and Pagans.
- C. He emphasizes that God's mystery, His Son, now revealed is so great that His evidence refutes all objections against God or Christ. v. 16
  1. He was manifest in the flesh
    - a. John 1:1-4
    - b. I John 1:1-4
    - c. I Peter 1:13-21

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2. Justified in the Spirit
  - a. To declare righteousness, to vindicate.
  - b. Christ was vindicated in His own Spirit (Heb. 9:14), before men by overcoming death and raising from the dead. Robertson Word Pictures, p. 577, Vol. IV
3. Seen of Angels
  - a. Luke 24:4 - the tomb
  - b. Ascension - the angels spoke on His behalf
  - c. I Peter 3:22
4. Preached among the nations
  - a. He was preached to all people
  - b. Colossians 1:23
  - c. Matthew 28:18-20
  - d. Mark 16:20
5. Believed on in the world
  - a. II Thessalonians 1:10
  - b. Compare I Timothy 1:15
  - c. Not only was He proclaimed but He was accepted--two very distinct acts.
6. Received up into Glory
  - a. Ascension
  - b. Mark 16:19
  - c. Acts 1:9
7. What a sermon, sermon series or/and lessons!!!

D. Paul is telling Timothy that the facts are real. They are dependable. "I've given you these qualifications so men will know just how great a joy, ministry and message they have", is a good paraphrase of this passage of scripture.(dlc)

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### SUMMARY:

In this chapter the offices of leadership are stated. Church polity, as God wants it, is outlined. To accept more than this is doing the unnecessary. To reject a part of this leadership plan is to reject God's wisdom.

We are also reminded of the importance of the wife to the leaders. She is to be a great example, even as is her husband, to all.

Just in case one begins to think that the eldership, deaconship or the work of an evangelist is of no real value, Paul let's us know we have the responsibility for the truth of God. We are leaders in our communities for Christ.

Then, to really convince us, he enumerates many great things that cannot be refuted. They are all a part of our stewardship as leaders.

There never has been a lawyer who prepared a better brief for any case than that which Paul presents at the close of this chapter.

BE THE LEADER CHRIST WANTS YOU TO BE STARTING NOW!(dlc)

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TEST OVER I TIMOTHY, CHAPTER 3,

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

(fill in the blanks, use extra pages if needed)

1. If a man \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of a bishop he \_\_\_\_\_ a good \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Name eight qualifications of an elder.

3. What is the greek meaning of "ruleth well his own house".

What does that mean to you?

Give a practical example of how that would apply to an elder in the church.

4. List the qualifications of a deacon.

5. List the characteristics of the women mentioned in chapter 3.

6. Why do you think Paul included women at this place?

7. What was Paul's motive(s) for writing this passage to Timothy?

8. Do you believe that men today can meet the qualifications stated in this chapter for the elders and deacons? Why?

9. Using as much paper as you need write your answer to the following:
  - a. What can the church expect of the elders?
  - b. What can the church expect of the deacons?
  - c. What can the church expect of the evangelist?
  - d. What can the elders expect of the church?
  - e. What can the deacons expect of the church?
  - f. What can the evangelist expect of the church?
  
10. Using extra paper make your own outline of chapter three.
  
11. If you are not a leader in the church at this time:
  - a. Do you think it is a good work?
  
  - b. Are you willing to begin to prepare yourself to become an elder, deacon or evangelist?

Thank you for giving me the privilege of developing this study! I have found it very exciting and hope you will also.