



## Qualifications (I Timothy 3:1-16)

### Overseers

“This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be **blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence** (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); **not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.** Moreover he must have **a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he** fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.” I Timothy 3:1-7 NKJV

### I Timothy 3:1-7

- ☑ *“This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.” I Timothy 3:1 NKJV*

## ☑ Aspiring to Leadership

- ☑ **A position of overseer:** Paul is about to teach us what it means to be a worthy leader in the house of God. There is no doubt that both the desire to be one, and navigation of being one, can be a winding and rocky road, filled with all sorts of challenges and temptations.
- ☑ If we survey the seen, and we need not trek back into ancient history, there seems to be a greater percentage of those who do not rule well, than those who meet the standards laid out here by Paul.
- ☑ It seems to be that in the modern day church, the more “known” the leader, the more often they fall to one or more the temptations, named here as requirements.

## ☑ Check your motives at the door!

- ☑ There is a warning sign at the entrance to leadership. Harsher judgment and mammon await.
- ☑ *“My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.”*  
James 3:1 NKJV
- ☑ *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”* Matthew 6:24 NKJV

☑ *“A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;” I Timothy 3:2-3*

☑ **Blameless**

☑ It's really quite simple, but it's not easy. In every way and in every situation, do it God's way. You cannot think about what is best for you, but rather what Yahweh say is right. Do this in all things and you will always land on the side of innocence before the Lord. Yes it is difficult, but that is why you have the Holy Spirit.

☑ **One Wife**

☑ As we know, in ancient times and for many reasons, men had more than one wife. Let's see this as an early accommodation for a fallen world. But, from the beginning, we can see One Flesh was the reason for marriage and anything more than that is less than optimal.

☑ **Temperate**

☑ In this case we are not taking about the weather! But seriously, have a mild and agreeable nature. This does not mean to be docile and passive, a pushover. This refers more to meekness, a man empowered by grace through

the Holy Spirit, and who need not “demonstrate” his power, but rather appears utterly gracious.

**Sober-minded**

- Clear thinking is a must if you are to lead. You must be able to see into the truth of the matter. A man carried away in wild thoughts and desires cannot be trusted to lead when the pressure is on. Good, solid decision making that people can depend on at all times is a trademark of excellent leadership. When people think about you they must instantly feel, “I can have confidence that he will make a good decision.”

**Good behavior**

- Let’s call this situational appropriateness. How you act in every circumstance needs to be honoring to God and to man. Don’t be a negative force who draws negative attention. Be solid and aware of what will bring peace and clarity in all situations.

**Hospitable**

- What’s mine is not mine! Let’s start with that. Live life with an open hand. Your life needs to be a resting place for others. Your life needs to feel like an open invitation for others. Think of your life and your possessions as a safe harbor for weary travelers, a place where people feel

instantly at home, equal, loved and cared for. People are not invading your space; your space is invading them.

Think of the walls of your home like an aged well-seasoned cast-iron pan. The walls of your home must be seasoned with the warmth and invitation of the Spirit.

### **Able to Teach**

- It's one thing to know; it's altogether different to pass on what you know so others can know what you know. *"A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven."* (John 3:27) Your job is to pass it along!

### **Not Given to Wine**

- Give to? We are to be ruled by nothing. Nothing should grip us other than the presence of God. This extends to all potential addictions. Paul said it like this...*"[of] All things [that] are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."* (I Corinthians 6:12 NKJV) Just because something is permitted does not mean you are permitted to let it rule you!

### **Not Violent**

- Blessed are the peacemakers...Words of Y'shua. If at all possible, leave at peace with all men...Words of Paul. Need I say more?

☑ **Not Greedy for Money**

- ☑ This may be in the top two of what causes the downfall of most leaders? Can you guess the other? Men get a taste of “success” and it eventually drives them. They split their allegiance to God with the things of the world: fame, accolades, recognition, “my ministry”, power, influence, etc. But John realized this was exactly opposite of what we are meant to do! *“He must increase, but I must decrease.”* John 3:30 NKJV

☑ **Gentle**

- ☑ *“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”*  
(Matthew 10:16 NKJV) You are not meant to be a doormat, however you are meant to be soft and gracious. Again, think meekness, absolute power under control.

☑ **Not Quarrelsome**

- ☑ We are meant to speak the truth, in love. But creating arguments only causes others to put up a defensive shield. An agreeable spirit is much more influential than one that demands being right!

☑ **Not Covetous**

- ☑ Ask yourself this; “If I am exactly where God wants me, doing exactly what He has called me to do, then why

would I want something else?” That is what births covetousness. It’s a simple formula. It’s timeless and ageless. The only thing standing in the way is your authentic desire. *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”* Matthew 6:33 NKJV

☑ *“one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.”* I Timothy 3:4-6 NKJV

☑ **Rules his household well**

☑ **Submitted Children:** Children may not be perfect, and certainly will make their own errors along the way, but are they submitted to the truth of your home. We are not looking for a performance, but they must be aiming in the direction, *“working out their own salvation with fear and trembling;”* Philippians 2:12 NKJV

☑ **Reverent Children:** It’s black and white here. Do your children have a healthy fear of you? This can only be achieved if there is no ambiguity in your character. Your standards and lifestyle are clear; you are an open book;

and there are no open-ended questions about who you are and what you stand for.

- ☑ If you cannot handle the affairs of your own home how can you take care of God's house? Think about it. If you can't handle the relatively tiny obligations of a few souls, how on earth can you handle more?

- ☑ **Not a novice**

- ☑ A Novice: a beginner, one with no track record or proven experience. It would be like following the wind!
  - ☑ Lest he be puffed up with pride and suffer the same condemnation of the devil...(see verse 7 below)
  - ☑ When all you are is a spark on some lighter fluid, the flame will burn bright, brilliant but for a moment. It's all too common and all too obvious. Leaders who are a mile wide and an inch deep, those who depend more on flash than substance are not what God is looking for. Unfortunately, that is most of what we have today in the modern-Church.

- ☑ *"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 NKJV*

- ☑ **A Good Witness**



- ☑ The Pagans are looking on...the outside world is looking on and ready to fine pick every inconsistency, ready to expose every hypocrisy. It's tragic today that the number of leaders in the Church who have become exposed because of their defiled character is egregious and growing constantly.
- ☑ Lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. (See verse 6 above)
- ☑ *“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.”* Isaiah 14:12-15 NKJV

## Deacons

“Likewise deacons must be **reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.** But let these also **first be tested;**

then let them serve as deacons, being found **blameless**. Likewise, their **wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things**. Let deacons be the **husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well**. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves **a good standing and great boldness in the faith** which is in Christ Jesus." I Timothy 3:8-13  
NKJV

### I Timothy 3:8-13

☑ *"Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience." I Timothy 3:8-9*  
NKJV

#### ☑ Reverent

☑ Like reverent children, these must be "reverent men of God." It's black and white here. Do they have a healthy fear of God? Do they live knowing there is no ambiguity in God's character. Does their lifestyle clearly match God's standards?

#### ☑ Not double tonged

☑ Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.  
(Luke 6:45) James said it best...**this ought NOT to be!**  
*"But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full*

*of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, **these things ought not to be so.**" James 3:8-10 NKJV*

☑ **Not given to too much wine**

☑ See above! (I Timothy 3:2-3)

☑ **Not Greedy for money!**

☑ See above! (I Timothy 3:2-3)

☑ **A solid understanding of the mystery of the faith!**

☑ **...with a pure conscience!** This is the key. Ask yourself this above all things. Why is it that you want to be a leader in the Church? If there is a single motivation that has yourself in the mix, you are missing something.

☑ See verse 16 below!

☑ *"But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless." I Timothy 3:10 NKJV*

☑ **Tested and found blameless!**

☑ Let's repeat what we already reviewed but add a little twist!

☑ It's really quite simple, but it's not easy. In every way and in every situation, do it God's way. You cannot think

about what is best for you, but rather what does Yahweh say is right. Do this in all things you will always land on the side of innocence before the Lord. Yes it is difficult, but that is why you have the Holy Spirit.

- ☑ The twist! No way you are ready for this position before you've been tested!
- ☑ *“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing **that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.**” James 1:2-4 NKJV*
- ☑ *“For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; **for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.** If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures,*

*he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."* I Corinthians 3:9-15 NKJV

☑ *"Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well."* I Timothy 3:11-12 NKJV

☑ **Reverent wives!**

☑ We have already seen what the man of God is called to be, should he desire a leadership role...but what about his wife?

☑ Not Slanderers: no gossip; only life from her mouth!

☑ Temperate: mild mannered and controlled, not one who invites attention. Classy, modest and moderate in words, deeds and dress!

☑ Faithful in all things! She is just as solid as her husband. In other words, all of the above applies in her own circles.

☑ **One Wife**

☑ As seen above.

☑ **Rule their children well**

☑ As seen above.

☑ **Rules their households well**

☑ As seen above.

☑ *“For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.” 1 Timothy 3:13 NKJV*

☑ **The Benefits**

☑ **Good Standing:** When people see you they ought to see right through you. And when they look through you, they should see Christ! What better life could you have?

☑ Great Boldness in their faith! When you have achieved this level of Godly living, your testimony will produce what God has promised!

☑ **Greater works:** *““Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, **the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do,** because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.**” John 14:12-14 NKJV*

☑ **Ambassador status:** *“Now then, **we are ambassadors** for Christ, **as though God were pleading through us:***

we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God." II Corinthians 5:20 NKJV

- ☑ **The Impartation of Grace:** "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, **that it may impart grace to the hearers.**" Ephesians 4:29 NKJV

### **The Great Mystery**

"These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know **how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.** And without controversy **great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.**" I Timothy 3:14-16 NKJV

### **Scripture 1:26-50**

- ☑ *"These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." I Timothy 3:14-15 NKJV*

☑ **It's all about conduct...**

- ☑ You can't just agree with these things on paper—YOU MUST live them out!

☑ **Your house is a microcosm of His house!**

- ☑ Reflection: Your very life is a reflection of what is really inside of you!

- ☑ *"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory." 1 Timothy 3:16 NKJV*

☑ **The Mystery of Godliness**

- ☑ **Godliness is wholistic integrity:** When the thoughts you generate on the inside, and the life you live on the outside, are in alignment with the Spirit of God!

- ☑ Y'shua went from Spirit to Flesh.
- ☑ In the flesh He became justified by the Spirit.
- ☑ It was witnessed by Angels (Luke 1:26-38)
- ☑ Preached to Pagans
- ☑ Conversions of Pagans
- ☑ Up in glory until...(Acts 1:9-11)

**NEXT TEACHING**

A Good Minister (1 Timothy 4:1-16)