

# 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy

## Fall 2024

### Week 7 - Timothy 3: 1 -7

#### “What “Right” looks like in a Church according to Paul

- Sound Doctrine
- A Place of Grace
- Prayer (for everyone, especially leaders)
- Godly Elders and Deacons
- Teaching the Bible
- Caring for People
- Pursuing Godliness

#### 1 Timothy 3: 1 - 7

*“Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. (2) Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, (3) not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. (4) He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full[a] respect. (5) (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?) (6) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. (7) He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap”.*

#### Background –

- ❖ The Office of the Ministry is the highest office in the Church. In fact, it is the only office that God has established for every congregation (See **Acts 20:28 and 1 Tim 5:17**)
- ❖ When it comes to governing a church, there is not the perfect church model.
- ❖ **Every pastor is an elder. Not every elder is a pastor.**
- ❖ **1Tim 3:1** – When Paul talks about the responsibility of overseers he’s talking overseers of the Church. Some translations use the word bishop or elder. This is someone who is assigned the responsibility of overseeing, of watching, and of intently caring for God’s church.
- ❖ Think about this. **Zion Lutheran is God’s bride.** This is His church and so God called Pastor Mavis and the elders to help oversee and to help care for the flock.
- ❖ “Christ is not only the one who authorizes the office and calls men to service but also serves as the paradigm for those whom He calls and sends”. **Look at John 20:21.**

**Question 1** – *What does it mean to be a responsible leader? What does a responsible leader in a church look like?*

**Question 2** – *Why is the Office of the Ministry the highest office in the Church?*

**Question 3** – *Why do those who serve in the ministry bear a heavy burden?*

- ❖ Paul wants the congregations to call as their pastors only men (adult males) who have the proper qualifications. A pastor should, first of all, be a devout Christian and have a good character and reputation. The virtues that are required of all Christians should be especially noticeable in pastors, because they are to serve as good examples to their flocks. If their conduct is bad, people will not be inclined to listen to their message.
- ❖ A pastor should, therefore, keep himself under control and not allow himself to be ruled by sinful habits, such as intemperance, bad temper, greed, or pride.
- ❖ If he is married and has children, he should conduct his home in an exemplary Christian manner and lead his family to live a pure and godly life.

**Question 4** – *Why should a pastor serve his flock by his word and deed? What happens when there is a conflict?*

**Question 5** – *What gifts should a pastor have in order to serve?*

**Question 6** – *In Titus 1:6-9, Paul outlines specific qualities that those who oversee a congregation must possess. What are they?*

- ❖ In Chapter 3 of 1st Timothy, Paul outlines the 15 qualifications needed to be an overseer or elder. There are another 12 qualifications in Paul's letter to Titus.
- ❖ There are a total of 27 qualifications to be an elder
- ❖ As we look at the traits it doesn't mean you get to violate these things because they are only for pastors. We should be living these kinds of qualifications as Christians in general

### **Qualifications for Elders (1 Tim. 3:1-7)**

1. Above Reproach – Free from scandal
2. Husband of one Wife
3. Temperate
4. Self-Controlled
5. Respectable
6. Hospitable
7. Able to teach (**James 3:1 and Acts 17:11**)
8. Not given to drunkenness
9. Not violent but gentle
10. Not quarrelsome
11. Not a lover of money
12. Manages his own family well
13. See that his children obey him
14. Not a recent convert
15. Has a good reputation with outsiders (**Luke 6:26**)

## Final thought

- ❖ New converts become mature enough to serve in a leadership role by learning from mature believers. A mature Christian must take a new convert under their wing and “show them the ropes.” There are more new believers who desire a relationship than there are mature believers willing to give of their time.

**Question 7** - Have you ever considered discipling someone else?

**Question 8** - What steps are necessary to take to begin leading a young believer into a significant place in the church?

## Outline of 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy

- I. Salutation (1:1–2)
- II. The charge concerning false teachers (1:3–4)
  - a. The charge to preserve the purity of the Gospel (1:5–11)
  - b. Two examples (1:12–20)
- III. Instructions concerning pastoral ministry (2:1–3:16)
  - a. Public worship (2:1–15)
    - i. The duty of prayer (2:1–7)
    - ii. The position of men in public worship (2:8–10)
    - iii. The position of women in public worship (2:11–15)
  - b. The qualifications for public ministry (3:1–13)
    - i. Overseers (or pastors) (3:1–7)
    - ii. Deacons (3:8–13)
    - iii. The center and substance of public ministry (3:14–16)
- IV. Opposing false teachers (4:1–16)
  - a. False teachers described (4:1–5)
  - b. The pastor’s work against false teachers (4:6–16)
- V. Pastoral ministry with various groups (5–6:2)
  - a. Older and younger, widows, elders, and slaves (5:1–25)
  - b. Concluding exhortations (6:3–19)
  - c. Reiteration of Charge (6:20–21)

## References

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