

Memory Verse

1 Timothy 3:1

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.

GRACELIFE



CHURCH

**THE CHURCH HAS
LEFT THE BUILDING...**

**PART 3 – THE LEADERS
OF THE CHURCH PT. 1**

We have looked at *who the church is* - *Believers in Jesus*. We studied the **structure** of the church as an organized organism. We learned that we are **family**, structured around the **ancient Synagogue**. In one sense, the church began in *Acts 2* with the coming of the Holy Spirit. It was a transitional period, from *Law to grace*, so it was a little different than we think of today.

1 Timothy 3:1-13

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4He must manage his own

household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

8Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. 9They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. 11Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. 12Let

deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. 13For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

A. *1 Timothy 3:1, 8* - Who are the Leaders?

There are 2 offices within the church: pastors and deacons. The ESV, NASB translate the Greek as "overseer" here. If you recall, "overseer, elder, pastor and bishop" refer to the **same office**, or **same position**. I will refer to the words we are *most familiar with* – *pastor or elder*.

A. *1 Timothy 3:1, 8* - Who are the Leaders?

1. Elders, Overseers, Pastors or Bishops

Titus 1:5-7a

This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint **elders** in every town as I directed you - 6if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. 7For an **overseer**, as God's steward, must be above reproach.

A. *1 Timothy 3:1, 8* - Who are the Leaders?

Verses 5 and 7 use 2 different Greek words that are connected and *used interchangeably*. Each word: *pastor*, *overseer*, etc. has a different emphasis *regarding this leadership position*. The word "*pastor*" is connected to the word *pasture*, referring to a *shepherd*. If you want to *learn* about other words emphasize, you can *study on your own*, which I encourage you to do.

1 Timothy 3:5

1 Timothy 3 - Click for Chapter

	1487 [e]	1161 [e]	5100 [e]	3588 [e]	2398 [e]	3624 [e]	4291 [e]	3756 [e]	1492 [e]	4459 [e]	1577 [e]	2316 [e]
	ei	de	tis	tou	idiou	oikou	prostēnai	ouk	oiden	pōs	ekklēsias	Theou
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	if	but	one	the	own	household	to manage	not	knows	how	[the] church	of God
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A. 1 Timothy 3:1, 8 - Who are the Leaders?

An elder is *mature in the faith*. Historically, and **elder was an older man**. That *doesn't mean one has to be older* to be an elder. It can help, as he has life experiences that are helpful to *train, equip and lead the younger*. But if a *35-year-old* has the gift of teaching, wants to become a pastor, is qualified, and is mature enough in the faith, then he can do it.

A. *1 Timothy 3:1, 8* - Who are the Leaders?

2. Deacons

The 2nd leadership role, *under the authority and leadership of the elders* are the *deacons*.

What is a deacon? It is a ***servant*** or *one who serves* or ***ministers***. Another way to put it in the context of that day was, ***a servant of a king***.

A. 1 Timothy 3:1, 8 - Who are the Leaders?

They *may or may not be ordained* or have an *official position*. They *may or may not be paid*, depending on the church, location and budget. They help with the ministry, and some of the basis is in *Acts 6*.

They are *servants*!

B. 1 Timothy 3:2-14 – The Qualifications of the Leaders?

1. Pastors – 3:2-7

Paul gives **14 qualifications** for an elder or pastor. Vs 2 - 1. Above reproach. 2. Husband of 1 wife. 3. Sober minded. 4. Self-controlled. 5. Respectable. 6. Hospitable. 7. Able to teach. Vs 3 - 8. Not a drunkard. 9. Not violent but gentle. 10. Not quarrelsome.

B. 1 Timothy 3:2-14 – The Qualifications of the Leaders?

1. Pastors – 3:2-7

11. Not a lover of money. Vs 4-5 - 12. Must manage his household well. Vs 6 - 13. Not a recent convert. Vs 7 - 14. Well thought of by outsiders.

B. 1 Timothy 3:2-14 – The Qualifications of the Leaders?

In verses 2-3, Paul's main focus is this man's **character**. His character comes first, and it is also interesting *what is not in the text* - he doesn't have to have a *Ph. D. or Doctorate or Master of Divinity* to lead the church. Education is good, and *should be a desire* for any leader. Paul was extremely well-educated.

B. 1 Timothy 3:2-14 – The Qualifications of the Leaders?

“Above reproach” it **doesn't mean perfect**. It means *even if an accusation was brought against him, it wouldn't stick*. He may be accused of something, but because of his character and how *he has portrayed himself at home and in front of others*, the accusation won't be a problem and the truth will *show that the accusation has no grounds in reality*.

B. 1 Timothy 3:2-14 – The Qualifications of the Leaders?

He must **think clearly** and be able to **teach** God's word. This is **key to the role**. If he is *not able to teach the Bible*, then he has no right to be an elder. If *God has not gifted him with the ability to teach, he has no business teaching*. He is not going to be great when he starts teaching and will get better by using his gifts. But if he cannot teach, *he is not to be an elder*.

B. 1 Timothy 3:2-14 – The Qualifications of the Leaders?

Verses 4-5 focus on his home. Paul gives more details about *this area* than any other. He spends a lot of time on character, but spends *more time explaining why the home is the major factor in whether or not he is qualified for ministry.*

B. 1 Timothy 3:2-14 – The Qualifications of the Leaders?

The word for “*manage*” refers to *setting something in order, caring for, superintend, preside over, give aid, protect, and one who provides a good model or example that positively impacts others*. All of this is gathered up in this word “*manage*,” though some say “*rule*.”

B. 1 Timothy 3:2-14 – The Qualifications of the Leaders?

These are **non-negotiable requirements!** *Titus 1:5-9* give these too, though in a condensed form. This is **hard!** This is **scary!** This is... **not impossible!** This man's character *must be without question.* Does he have sins in his past? Yes. Does he have his struggles? Yes. But his normal lifestyle is **holy.**

B. 1 Timothy 3:2-14 – The Qualifications of the Leaders?

Even great teachers, preachers and leaders have *bad days and problems*. Charles Spurgeon struggled deeply with depression at times. This list doesn't mean a pastor can't mess up in *small ways*. But it does mean ***his normal lifestyle must be exceptional.***

B. 1 Timothy 3:2-14 – The Qualifications of the Leaders?

1. Deacons – 3:8-14

There are **10 main qualifications** I count. *Verse 11* has a few *interpretations*, which we will deal with next time, though I include them as the text states. Deacons must be...

B. 1 Timothy 3:2-14 – The Qualifications of the Leaders?

1. Deacons – 3:8-14

Vs 8 - 1. Dignified. 2. Not double tongued. (He *doesn't say one thing* in one situation, and *something contradictory* in another situation). 3. Not addicted to much wine. 4. Not greedy. Vs 9 - 5. Holds to the faith. Vs 10 - 6. He must be tested (indicates elders

B. 1 Timothy 3:2-14 – The Qualifications of the Leaders?

1. Deacons – 3:8-14

should be tested too). 7. Be blameless. Vs 11 - 8. His wife must have character - 8a - dignified; 8b - not a slanderer; 8c - sober minded; 8d - faithful. Vs 12 - 9. Husband of 1 wife. 10. Manage his home and children well.

B. 1 Timothy 3:2-14 – The Qualifications of the Leaders?

These are **non-negotiables**. They too *must have exceptional character*. They *don't have to have the ability to teach*, though in our culture, some do. If they teach, they should have the spiritual gift of teaching! They also don't have to have a Bible college degree, *but must be godly men who firmly hold to truth* (vs. 5).