

Title: Leaders In The Church

Text" I Timothy 3:1-13

Would you open your Bibles, please, to I Timothy. I Timothy chapter 3, as we continue our study of the duties and responsibilities of people with the church. <sup>(2A)</sup> *What should we be doing?*

Now, we have looked, so far, at the primary function of the church. And that is prayer. Paul says, "First of all, prayer." <sup>(1B)</sup> Prayer is the number one function of every member of the church. Then, we looked <sup>(2B)</sup> at ladies within the church. <sup>(3B)</sup> And today, we come to the Biblical qualifications for leaders in the church. This is a very, very important chapter to understand. Let's look at it.

(Read I Timothy 3:1-13)

### Prayer

Our Father, we thank you for the Word of God which lives forever. And we pray that we might understand your Word. And we pray that our hearts might be in tune to thee; and that we might do the will of God in our daily lives. Help us, O Lord, to be sensitive to thee and to others. We pray that we might see the tremendous need for dedicated leaders in the church, especially if your Gospel is to be presented in love to those who would believe. And we pray this in the name of Jesus our Lord....Amen..

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According to the Word of God, there are only two groups of people who form the officers of the church. ONLY TWO..There are overseers. This word "overseers" can, also, be translated "Bishops" or "pastors." For the sake of our understanding we will use the translation "Pastors".

And secondly, there is the office of "Deacon." Two offices: Pastor and Deacon.

When Paul wrote to the church at Phippi he said to greet all the Pastors and Deacons. The only two that are mentioned. We find, also, in Acts chapter 20 when Paul brought the elders of the church of Ephesus together, he called them both overseers, elders, and pastors. In the book of I Peter chapter 5 we learn that the elder was also an overseer and, also, a Paster to feed the flock of God. So, the terms are used interchangeably.

In I Timothy chapter 3 we read, "If any man aspires to the office of PASTOR overseer and then in Verse 8 we read about the Deacons. Two offices: PASTORS Overseers and Deacons."

Now, I would like to share with you from these verses the qualifications that God has for these two offices. It is extremely important for the church of Jesus Christ to come back to a Biblical foundation for all of its work. It doesn't matter what the years of experience has shown us, if it violates the teaching of the Word of God. Because there is no answer to success in the church of God like God's success and God's qualifications. We must meet His terms. We must meet His conditions if we are to do His will. And I believe it is very, very important to have spiritually qualified people in the areas of leadership within the church. Why? Because they are the chief testimony of the church and its impact. Not only on its members, but upon those outside of the church.

And it is a proven fact, that the church will go just as far as leaders. The leaders are upon those who come in contact only briefly with her ministries. So, there are just two offices: PASTORS overseers and Deacons.

(1C) Now, first of all, concerning the Pastor, I would like to share with you four things about the office of Pastor. And I am using the word interchangeably: Overseer, Bishop, Pastor....

(1D) The first thing that I would like to share with you about the office is his DESIRE. Vs 1 says, "If any man aspires to the office of Pastor, it is a fine work he desires to do."

The word "aspires" means "to reach out for something." And it is not something that happens to the individual. It is something within him that he does in and of himself. The Bible is saying that if a man reaches out with all of his heart for the office of "Pastor", then he desires a good work. [The word "Desires" means "to fix ~~the~~ passion on a given thing."

[In other words, God's ~~minister~~ <sup>PASTOR</sup>, God's servant, must have a deep conviction that he is called of God. That what he is aspiring after is not a momentary emotional desire. But, it is a burden. It is an over whelming conviction that is on his heart. That it is God's ministry. That ~~it~~ <sup>IT</sup> is God's calling.

Often, I have the opportunity to talk with young people who are considering the call of God to the ministry. And I ~~say~~ <sup>have said</sup> to them, "Make sure that you are called of God." That you wouldn't be happy doing anything else then <sup>teaching</sup> preaching God's Word. That God has truly called you. That the Holy Spirit has worked in your heart. And if this is just a momentary experience of saying "Maybe, I should consider the ministry." Oh no....that is not the call of God. It must be an abiding conviction. A conviction that God is calling.

But, there is one thing that I have learned over the years. There are more people being called then are answering the call. More people are being called by God then are responding to that call. That is what I have discovered.

Dear friends, let me ask you: "Is God calling you?"....Now, I don't know where you stand in life. I don't find any age qualification. And it has been my experience that God takes people out of all walks of life where they have been for 5, 10, 20 years, and has planted them down in the ministry..... <sup>that's right</sup>.....

omit

And maybe there are some of you adults, here today, and you have had a long experience in a given job, and you say, "God has nothing else for me to do."... <sup>Now</sup> FRIENDS, NEVER SAY THAT....God may decide to call you.... Regardless of your age and experience.... He may call you and use you for his glory and ministry..

So, a Pastor must have the conviction within his heart that God is calling him.

(2D) Secondly, notice something about his dedication in verses 2 and 3.

(a) He must be "above reproach." ~~Your ~~no~~ says blameless.~~ That is, he should have no cause for anyone to throw an offense against him for something he has done or said.

(b) He must be the husband of one wife. That is exactly what the Bible says. If you are going to have two or three wives, <sup>at The same Time</sup> you shouldn't be a Pastor. He must be completely devoted to one woman.

(c) He must be temperate, sober, respectable, hospitable, able to teach. Now, the ability to teach is very important in the office of Pastor. If God has not given one the ability to teach, then I question whether God has called that one into the ministry. He might be called in some other area of service, but, the Bible tells us that <sup>one</sup> ~~one~~ of the qualifications for a Pastor is the ability to teach. And of course the content of his teaching is the Word of God. He must be able to teach the Word of God.

(d) Vs 3 says that the Pastor should not be addicted to wine. Now, some folks have had a little fun with this verse in relationship to Deacons in Vs 8. It says about the Pastor, "Not addicted to wine".....

And in Vs 8 it says about Deacons, "Not addicted to much wine." And I have had some deacons kid me **!** about those verses.

But seriously, we hear much today about the processing of wine and alcoholic drinks and how much better and safer it is today. But, dear friends, you still get drunk when you drink. In fact, one drink is harmful to the body. The O.T. warns against looking at the wine when it is troubled and sturing around. It warns against that because God knows what will happen. And God told the kings and the Priest and the leaders of the nation of Israel not to touch wine or strong drink...WHY?...Lest they destroy the Law of God. And all of us know the effect alcoholic has on one's ability to consintrate and control himself. A drunk man is a man that is being controled by an outside influence and not the HolySpirit.

8 And How my heart has ached when I have dealt with people who would give anything to be free of alcholism. To give anything fo be delievered. And that is why the Gospel is the Good news. For God is able to take a person's dependence on alchol and give him a dependence on Himself. And we need to thank God for that tremendous freedom *that Comes through J.C.*

*my*

And young people, you can so easily get involved. You think it is a big thing to take a drink once in awhile. And this attitude just burdens me so much. Especially, since ~~a doctor friend of mine told me~~ *The Facts Tell us* that one out of every 12 people who take a frist drink will become an alcholic. And then I read that one out of every four teenages today are on their way to becoming an alcholic. And I pray, Lord, keep our young people from that first drink. It is so easy to go along with the crowds, to do what our friends do. And Lord help Christians, especially our young people to be strong in the Lord. To resist Satan and to trust the Lord.

And my friend, if this is a problem with you today, just remember that God can forgive, that God can cleasn, that God can deliever. He wants you to come to Christ. That is the real answer. Let God fill your life. He loves you and cares for you. Trust Him.

Also, a Pastor should ~~not be greedy of filthy lucre;~~ *be free from the love of money* but patient, not a bbawler. This is also true of the deacons.

(30) Now, the third thing that I would like to mention about a Pastor is his discipline. In Vs 4-5 it says, "He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)

What a tremendous responsibility and burden is upon the shouldiers of one who serves the Lord. We need discipline in our homes. Our children must be in subjection in all things. And of course, the same thing is true of the Deacon.

*Thank God for people who prayed for my children. They never critized my kids - They upheld them in prayer - parent with them*

(40) Then, the final thing that I would like you to notice about the Pastor is his depth in life. In Vs 6-7 it says "and not a new convert." A new ~~person~~ <sup>convert</sup> in the Lord should never be placed in the position of a Pastor in the local church. <sup>and the church shouldn't</sup> ~~Don't~~ be quick to put a new convert into the ministry. Let him prove himself. Let him go through the deep waters....WHY?..."Lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.

It also says in Vs 7 that "he must have a good reputation with those outside the church." That ~~is~~ with people who don't believe in Christ. Those outside the church. <sup>Those are the qualifications for Pastor</sup>

(2C) Now, let's come to the Deacons. And in verses 8 through 13, I would like to share 5 things about the <sup>qualification</sup> ~~office~~ <sup>office</sup> of deacon.

Many people have mention to me concerning the situation of Deacon and the fact that they are the only office mentioned in the church beside Pastor. They have ask, "Why is it that we have all kinds of offices in the church? Why church officers, why <sup>boards</sup> ~~boards~~ of trustees and Christian Education and Missions? If there is only suppose to be two offices in the church...Pastor and Deacon...why do we have so many?

Well, beloved, I believe the Biblical standard is simplyly this. Everyone who is placed into a position of AUTHORITY AND SERVICE in the church is a deacon...Everyone...Every single individual who is placed ~~int~~ into a position of authority and leadership should fulfill the requirements set forth her in I Timothy. <sup>AND that applies to S.S. Teachers, and choir member</sup>

\* The word "deacon" means "servant." And the word "Pastor" means "one who feeds." And that is <sup>The issue</sup> ~~so important~~.

So, whether you are <sup>chairman of Finance or chairman of</sup> ~~trustee or a member~~ of the Board of Christian Education or <sup>The Clerk</sup> ~~an officer~~ in the church, no matter what your responsibility is in the church, Biblical you are a deacon. If you have authority and leadership by vote of the congregation, Biblical you are a deacon. And these qualifications found her in I Timothy for a Deacon applies to all who serve as leaders in the church. There is one office. And it is deacon.

~~And, beloved, we need Biblical leaders. People who will share their faith in Jesus Christ~~ (Danger - Resign - No-)

And beloved, we need Biblical leaders. People who will share their faith in Jesus Christ. People who will stand for the truth of the Word of God. People who are under the control of the Holy Spirit. And may God give us people like this. People who meet the qualifications of <sup>set forth by Paul in</sup> ~~a~~ <sup>of a</sup> ~~deacon,~~ <sup>of Committee or office</sup> regardless of what board they may serve on. May God give us spiritually qualified people.

(1D) Now, notice Vs 8. <sup>First of all</sup> A deacon's behaviour is characterized by dignity. That is a person who is worthy of respect. It connotes a seriousness of mind and character. A <sup>man</sup> ~~man~~ with a dedication and purpose. Also, he is not to be "double-tongued". That means, saying one thing while doing another. He is not to be addicted to much wine. I have already commented on that. So, a deacon is to be characterized by dignity.

(2D) Secondly, in Vs 9, a deacon is to be known for his belief. ~~It~~ <sup>It</sup> says, "holding the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience."

I wonder, my friend, do you really believe what you say you believe? Do you really believe all the things we say we believe? Or, is it merely an agreement to a set of facts: Do we really believe that God invaded our <sup>world</sup> ~~planet~~ in the form of His son, Jesus Christ? Do we believe that God became man. That Jesus was not just a mere man. But that He was God incarnate in human flesh? Do we really believe that Jesus arose from the dead? Do we really believe that He is alive, right now, here, present in this room. Do we really believe that?

Do we really believe that He died for the sins of the whole world? And paid for every person's sins. That no one is outside his wonderful love. Do we really believe that Jesus is coming again? I mean, do we really, or, are we a little shaky? Is our faith more intellectual agreement instead of heart appropriation? Holding the mystery of the faith in a clear conscience.

(3D) Then, I notice the ~~second~~ <sup>third</sup> thing about a deacon. And that is ~~their~~ <sup>his</sup> blamelessness. Vs 10 says, "and let these, also, first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach."

This is similar to what we said about Pastors in Vs 6. A new convert should never serve as a deacon. It should be a person who has grown in the Lord. One who has been tested by time and is beyond reproach. And friends this is very, very important.

Vs 11 Now, let me comment about Vs 11. Vs 11 says "Women must likewise".

The word "likewise" refers back to everything that has just been said. So, everything that we have just mentioned about Deacons, or men, is also true about women who serve in the church.

Now, some <sup>folks believe</sup> ~~footnotes~~ indicate that the word "women" is referring to wives of Deacons. That is not true. The Greek word translated "women" is the feminine form of the masculine "Deacon"...or translated "DEACONESSES".

So, women who serve in the church must fulfill all the requirements related to the office of Deacon, plus they must be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, and faithful in all things.



*out* This is similar to what we said about Pastors in Vs 6. A new convert should not serve as a deacon. It should be a person who has grown in the Lord. One who has been found blameless or beyond reproach. Tremendous qualifications. ~~Add I wonder where we stand? How do we measure up?~~

(40) The fourth thing to notice about the qualifications of a deacon is his background and his home. Vs 12 says "let deacons be the husbands of <sup>of</sup> only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households." Deacons have the same responsibility concerning their home life as does the Pastor in Vs 4. In this area we want ~~ministers~~ <sup>PASTORS</sup> to be above reproach. But, Deacons have the same responsibility. And a person should not serve as a Deacon if he cannot manage his own household.

*out* Now, this doesn't mean that a person who has had a divorous cannot serve as a deacon <sup>in the church</sup>. ~~For I believe with all of my heart that~~ <sup>Why? Because</sup> the Bible teaches that when a <sup>person</sup> ~~man~~ comes to Christ, he began in christ. He confesses his sin and he begins anew in Christ. He is born again of the Spirit of <sup>of</sup> God. And all the problems that were present in the background are forgiven. In fact, God says they are forgotten. The sins have been wiped away as far as the East is from the West. And we begin as new creatures in Christ. Old things are passed away and all things become new.

(50) Then finally, something about the donfidence of the deacon in his witness. Vs 13, "For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."

This verse is refering to a respected and a <sup>an</sup> honored testimony. This verse is not refering to degrees of spirituality. But to a good standing as a dedicated spiritual leader of the church.

And this matter of confidence. This word "confidence" is the same word translated "boldness" in many parts of the N.T. Boldness or confidence in the life of a deacon. CONFIDENCE TO DO WHAT? It says a great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Wouldn't it be sad that if in the life of the church the young people were the only ones who were confident in the faith and not those who are the leaders? Wouldn't that be a shame? Yet, those of us in leadership position know how easy it is to lose the confidence of the Lord. Now where does confidence come from? How does a person become confident or bold in the faith of Jesus Christ? How?

I would like you to turn to Acts chapter 4. The book of Acts chapter 4. The situation is that Peter and John have been taken by the Jewish authorities to the High Priest. They had been preaching Christ. And so they were brought before the High Priest. And it was before the High Priest that they said that they had to obey God rather than men. For this they were rebuked and let go.

They returned to the church and found that the church was having a prayer meeting. In chapter 4 verse 31, ~~I want you to notice these words:~~ <sup>we read</sup> "And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak the word of God with boldness or confidence."

Now, what caused the boldness or confidence? I believe that any person reading this verse can see the answer. It says ~~when~~ they PRAYED. When they prayed they were filled and then they began to speak the word of God with boldness. <sup>Leaders</sup> DEACONS ARE TO BE BOLD IN THE FAITH. Just as much as Pastors are to be bold in the faith. But, dear friends, that boldness comes because of prayer and the filling of the Holy Spirit.

What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Well, according to the Bible it means to be controlled. And the condition that is needed for this control is YIELDING. A commitment from the heart of a believer whereby he says to God, "I PRESENT MYSELF TO YOU AS AN INSTRUMENT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS."

Now, Friends, maybe you feel that you have never possessed the Holy Spirit of God. HOW DOES A PERSON OBTAIN THE HOLY SPIRIT INTO HIS LIFE? The Bible teaches that every person who come in faith believing and receives Christ as their personal saviour and lord, receives the Holy Spirit.

1 Cor 3:16  
Rom 8:9

If you say today, "Lord, I understand that I am a sinner and I need Christ. I understand that Jesus died and paid for all my sin. I believe that you are God. And I confess my sin and ask you to come into my life." If you do that, at that moment, in some mysterious way, God the Holy Spirit comes into your life.

And from that moment on, the Holy Spirit dwells in a believers life. He dwells there and he wants to use your life for the glory of God. And he will. But the key is YIELDING. You must yield <sup>yourself</sup> daily to his control. And friends, how the church needs believers who are yielding daily to the control of the Holy Spirit. People, who are seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness in thier daily living.

You know, there maybe some leaders here today who say, "God, I know I haven't meet the Biblical qualifications for leadership in the church. And Father, I want the Spirit of God to work in my life. I want to make the kind of commitment to God which will permit the Holy Spirit to take over my life. Father God, I want that to happen. And I rededicate myself to you.".....Now, if you are thinking that, I pray that you will make that commitment, right now.....

And there maybe <sup>some</sup> ~~may~~ here who sense the need of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in their life. Boldness and confidence comes through prayer and <sup>yielding to</sup> the control of the Spirit of God.

And if you sense that need within your life, ~~that~~ <sup>is</sup> God trying to pull you ~~to~~ to himself. And I pray that you will respond. For God wants you. All 100% of you.

And mybe you are here, today, and you have never received Christ as your saviour. You know, ~~the~~ Christ died for your sin. He loves you and he wants to have fellowship with you. And you can have that sweet fellowship with the eternal God by asking Jesus to forgive you of your sins and to come into your life.....Oh, friend, I pray that you will make that decision today.....

Shall we close in prayer