

1 Timothy #9 and #10

June 22 and 29, 2025

Series: Body Essentials: Imperatives for Church and Leaders

Today's Message: To Cultivate and Evaluate Leadership in the Church; 1 Timothy 3:1-7, pt.1 & 2

Today's imperative for church and leaders is given by the Holy Spirit through Paul to Timothy to cultivate and evaluate the spiritual, moral, and personal qualities in men to serve the body of Christ as biblically qualified overseers and deacons.

Have you ever heard the statement, "God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called."

That's very interesting. On its face it sounds very down to earth, which it is. But after reading and studying 1 Timothy 3 about the qualifications for overseers, elders, pastor/teachers and deacons that the statement is too general and too broad. 1 Timothy 3 assumes the calling unto salvation. We even could conclude that 3:1 assumes that there is an aptitude or a desire in some men to be an overseer or a deacon. But the nuts and bolts of fitness for service in these roles of leadership in the church does come down to this: is the man noticeably qualified.

1 Timothy 3 teaches us how to do two things: How to train up the young men and men in the church for leadership by cultivating the spiritual, moral and personal assets necessary to qualify for the office of overseer and deacon. But also, 1 Timothy 3 teaches us how to evaluate the qualifications and fitness of a man who desires to serve as an overseer or deacon. Today we will focus on Overseers, also called elders, which assumes oversight and leadership in the local church. Among the elders there will one qualified to serve as pastor/ teacher (see Eph. 4:11).

I) **Cultivating: bringing up future leaders in the Church.** (General comments)

- A) Matthew 28:18-20: Great commission. Making disciples implies teaching and training.
- B) Ephesians 6:4: Fathers...bring your children up in the training and instruction of the Lord
 - 1) Teach children what's right, what's wrong, how to get right, and how to stay right (2 Timothy 3:16)ⁱ
 - (a) This would include teaching roles of men and women in the Church (See Titus 2:1-15)ⁱⁱ
 - (b) Training and instruction have been the pattern established by God: Dt. 5:29ⁱⁱⁱ; 6:7^{iv}; Ps. 78:1-4^v
- C) It is the duty of godly parents and godly leaders and teachers to teach and disciple the generations according to the sound doctrine of Scripture. To fail to do so is to fail the generations and weaken the Church. Just think, if we fail to prepare our children to be future leaders we are spending their inheritance.

II) **(3:1-7) Evaluating: testing the spiritual, moral and personal maturity of potential overseers of the Church.**

- A) (3:1) Evaluation #1: **Possessing and demonstrating reasonable spiritual maturity.**
 - 1) Sets his heart on being an overseer, and desires to be an overseer. (The outward driven by inward)
 - (a) "sets his heart" or "aspires to be": Clear, outward efforts in taking steps to become an overseer.
 - (b) "desires" meaning that there is an inward compulsion with passion for the Lord and
 - 2) I will add this thought, a man who desires to be an overseer as described here will be noticed. That is, his service, care, love for the members of the church and his ability to rightly handle the Word.
- B) (3:2-3) Evaluation #2: **Possessing and demonstrating reasonable moral maturity.**
 - 1) Above reproach: Doesn't mean "without sin." But does mean "nothing to take hold upon." There must be nothing in his life that others or Satan could take hold of that would scandalize the Church.
 - 2) Husband of but one wife: Simply understood as a man who is a "one woman man," committed to building his marriage and building up his wife. The ideal is to marry a woman and remain married to her. Being married is not required. But it is good. There are differing views on eldership and remarriage.
 - 3) Temperate: A pastor must "keep his head in all situations". Sober and sensible reactions in all things.
 - 4) Self-controlled/ sober: command of the gravity of the office as overseer. He avoids foolish behavior.
 - 5) Respectable/good behavior: daily habits that exhibit orderliness. Same word as "modesty" (1 Tim 2:9).
 - 6) Hospitable: "loving the stranger". By opening your heart, your hands, and even your home if needed.
 - 7) Able/Apt to teach: one of the main ministries. He demonstrates proper exposition. Studies. Prepares.
 - 8) Not given to drunkenness: Does not get drunk on wine (alcohol). Avoids causing stumbling (Rom. 14:21)
 - 9) Not violent but gentle: (two qualities) He is not a theological brawler. Not contentious. Patient. Gentle.

- 10) Not quarrelsome: He must be a peacemaker, not a troublemaker.
 - 11) Not a lover of money: 1 Tim. 6:9-10. Another way of saying this is that he is not covetous.
 - 12) Covetous: KJV. We would say that he should not covet another man's ministry and success, etc.
 - 13) **Application:** These qualities are marks and the evidence of the maturing process of the **morality** of our young men as we disciple them and cultivate godly manhood in them.
- C) (3:4-7) Evaluation #3: **Possessing and demonstrating reasonable personal maturity.**
- 1) Well managed and godly family: This does not demand that an overseer be married, or that he must have children. Some believe this is the case. BUT it seems apparent that marriage and family are most likely the will of God for most pastors. How does he honor his parents? Does his wife and children respect him? Are his children obedient to his leadership? If not, then it goes that he will not be in a position to adequately lead a church. **But, with endurance and training he will mature and grow!**
 - (a) He should "rule" with love, truth and discipline.
 - (b) What he is at home and what he is in the church must be consistent.
 - (c) He must "rule" as a loving caretaker of the flock not as a dictator. (**see 1 Peter 5:3**)
 - (d) The phrase "take care of (3:5)" indicates that he takes a personal interest in the needs of the church. It is the same idea as the description of the action of the good Samaritan. (Lk.10:34-35)
 - 2) Not a recent convert: The danger is rooted in his lack of time-tested maturity. The fruit of immaturity and lack of practiced experience (before becoming an overseer/elder/pastor-teacher is conceit. And that is describing a man who thinks more highly of himself than he ought to. Warren Wiersbe commented, "Satan enjoys seeing a youthful pastor succeed, get proud, and then tear down all that has been built up." That is what Paul may be referring to when he speaks about "falling under the same judgement the devil."
 - 3) A good reputation with outsiders. That is, that he has a good reputation outside the Church. Does he pay his bills on time? Is he the kind of person that others like doing business with?
 - (a) Colossians 4:5-6: "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."
 - (b) 1 Thess. 4:11-12: "Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we taught you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody."
 - 4) **Application:** These qualities should be impressed on our young men as of high importance in their development of personal maturity.
 - (a) Teach them to keep their word. "To do everything they say they are going to do. And do not encroach on the lives or property of others. (Richard Mayberry)"

ⁱ 2 Timothy 3:16-17: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

ⁱⁱ Titus 2:1-15: The whole chapter deals with various age groups of men and women. I wanted to emphasize this to demonstrate that no one just happens to become mature. Spiritual, moral and personal maturity comes by way of teaching and application of the teaching. We want each person to grow in godly wisdom.

ⁱⁱⁱ Deut. 5:29: "Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!"

^{iv} Deut. 6:7: "Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you go up."

^v Psalm 78:1-4a: "O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old—what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generations..."