

**THE DISCIPLINES AND DEVOTION OF THE  
CHURCH'S LEADERSHIP**

**1 Timothy 3:1-13  
September 30, 2018**

***1 Timothy 3:1-13***

***“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.***

***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.”*

**INTRODUCTION:** In this passage we have the biblical requirements of both the Pastor and the Deacon. I am of the person conviction that with the proper leadership we build powerful laity. The Bible, in **Titus 1:7**, refers to Pastors as **“stewards of God.”** In this position he is a manager or administrator of God’s house, dispensing under God to the members of the household the mysteries of God. As God’s steward, he is directly accountable to Him. Steward is made up of two words: house and law. Refers to the law whereby a household is administered or governed. The word refers also to a manager of a household, a superintendent. Word speaks of responsibility. A steward does not own anything, but manages all that his Master puts into his hands. Major characteristic of both offices is *faithfulness*. He must use what his Master gives him for the good and glory of his Master, and not for himself personally. His time, possessions, ambitions, and talents are all loaned to him by the Lord; he must be faithful to use them to honor God and build the church.

**v.1** Bishop

**v.8** Deacon

Define and then give similarities to ministries

2

The Disciplines and Devotion of the  
Church’s Leadership  
1 Timothy 3:1-3  
September 30, 2018

**Bishop** (overseer) – same as Pastor or elder. The overseer in the first century preached, taught, presided, expressed care and authority, and conferred discipline

### **Responsibility for the overseer?**

- **To Rule - 1 Tim. 5:17**
- **To Preach & Teach - 1 Tim. 5:17**
- **To Pray For The Sick – James 5:14**
- **To Care For The Church - 1 Peter 5:1-2**
- **To Set Policy - Acts 15:22ff**
- **To Ordain Other Leaders - 1 Tim 4:14**

**Deacon** - to serve; original meaning of this word had to do with performing menial tasks such as waiting on tables; includes any service in the church. Means also administration, cared for, minister, servant, preparations, relief, support

## **I. THEIR COMMISSION. 1, 8**

**“desires the position”** (likewise); speaks of a passionate compulsion; aspires/desires – 2 different words in the N.T.

**Aspires** – an external act; to stretch out oneself to grasp something. Describes someone who is taking steps to become a servant/leader

**Desires** – refers to inward feeling of desire. Put the two words together and it describes the person who outwardly pursues the ministry because of a driving compulsion on the inside.

## II. THEIR CHARACTER.

The words describe their moral character

### A. BLAMELESS.

Above reproach; “*No intellectual power or pulpit brilliancy can atone for the lack of solid Christian virtue and a blameless life.*”

Means to be unaccused; nothing laid to his charge; no accusations being circulated.

#### **Acts 24:16**

**“This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.”**

Nothing to take hold of; there should be nothing in your life that Satan or the unsaved can take hold of to criticize or attack the church.

## **B. HUSBAND OF ONE WIFE.**

A “one-woman” man. The issue is his moral, sexual behavior. Note this heads the list! Why? He does so because it is in this area, above all others, where leaders seem more prone to fall. The failure to be a one-woman man has put more men out of ministry than any other sin. It is a matter of grave concern.

## **C. NOT GIVEN TO WINE.**

The word describes a person who sits long with the cup and then drinks to excess. It is a well known fact that water was not pure in those days, so that weak wine, taken in moderation, would have been healthier to drink. However, there is a vast difference (**1 Tim. 5:23**) between the cultural use of wine in Bible days and supporting the alcohol industry today. A Godly leader would certainly want to give the best example and not be an excuse for sin in the life of some weaker brother.

**Romans 14:21**

**“It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.”**

**D. TEMPERATE.**

Self-control, serious attitude, and to be in earnest about his work. Suggests that you know the value of things and does not cheapen the ministry or the gospel message by foolish behavior. The word *temperate* literally translates wineless or unmingled with wine. There is such potential for great harm.

**Proverbs 20:1,**

**“Wine is a mocker,  
Strong drink is a brawler,  
And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.”**

**Proverbs 23:29-35**

**“Who has woe?  
Who has sorrow?  
Who has contentions?  
Who has complaints?  
Who has wounds without cause?  
Who has redness of eyes?  
Those who linger long at the wine,**

**Those who go in search of mixed wine.  
Do not look on the wine when it is red,  
When it sparkles in the cup,  
When it swirls around smoothly;**

**At the last it bites like a serpent,  
And stings like a viper.  
Your eyes will see strange things,  
And your heart will utter perverse  
things.  
Yes, you will be like one who lies down  
in the midst of the sea,  
Or like one who lies at the top of the  
mast, saying:  
‘They have struck me, but I was not  
hurt;  
They have beaten me, but I did not feel  
it.  
When shall I awake, that I may seek  
another drink?’”**

#### **E. NOT GREEDY FOR MONEY.**

Denotes eagerness for dishonest gain.

##### **Proverbs 1:19**

**“So are the ways of  
everyone who is greedy for gain; It  
takes away the life of its  
owners.”**

### **1 Timothy 6:9-10**

**“But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”**

*Gold has replaced God for many! Some have turned away from pursuing the things of God in favor of money.*

Greedy people are compulsive; they are continually trapped in sins by their consuming desire to acquire more.

*“The earth-bound desires of a covetous spirit always clip the wings of faith and love.”*

Geoffrey B. Wilson

### **F. RULES HIS OWN HOUSE WELL.**

*“If you can be a good Christian at home, you can be a good Christian anywhere.”*

J.M.H.

- I should have an exemplary personal life
- I should have an exemplary home life



*Talkative*, in **Pilgrim's Progress**, "*A saint abroad, and a devil at home.*" The home is the proving ground for leadership skills.

**NOTE:** What I am called to do in leadership/servant in the church is essential in the home.

- 1. Resolving Conflict**
- 2. Building Unity**
- 3. Maintaining Love**
- 4. Serving Each Other**

#### **G. NOT A NOVICE.**

**"first be tested"** – an untested Christian is an unprepared Christian; one newly planted

**1 Tim. 5:22**

**"Do not lay hands on anyone hastily"**

This does not call for an examination but a general verdict of the community concerning life and conduct.

## H. A GOOD TESTIMONY.

Reputation; Character; Pure Conscience

### **Colossians 4:5-6**

**“Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”**

### **1 Thessalonians 4:12**

**“that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.”**

A high level of life is demanded of those who have been called to lead in the things of the Lord. Your position calls for a certifying testimony.

A man chosen to lead the church must maintain a reputation in the community for righteousness, moral character, love, kindness, generosity, and goodness. All will certainly not agree with his theology, and he will no doubt face antagonism when he takes a stand for God’s truth; however, those outside the church must recognize him as a man of impeccable reputation.

**Colossians 1:28-29**

**“Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.”**

**CONCLUSION: 3 CHALLENGES:**

- 1. Love Jesus Christ the Lord**
- 2. Love Your Wife**
- 3. Love the People You Serve**

**4 PRINCIPLES TO HELP CULTIVATE HUMILITY**

- 1. Accept God’s Estimation of Yourself**
- 2. Yield Yourself to God Daily**
- 3. Focus on Christ and His Blessings**
- 4. Look for Opportunities to Serve Others**