



“Dedicated Leaders” 1 Timothy 3:1-13

We have a leadership crisis in our world today. There is a major disparity between power and character. Those in power are not necessarily up to the task of discharging their responsibilities to the benefit of those they lead because of their lack of character. A church (family/nation/organization) rises or falls upon its leadership (Matt 10:24-25)!

Below the Water Level Living (Character):

- This is not a list of what leaders DO but what leaders ARE.
- These are the minimum requirements for leadership in the church. 1 Tim 3; Titus 1; 1 Pet 5
- These are the telltale marks of spiritual maturity.
- Notice what's not on the list: Giftedness, Spiritual power, Theological training, Spiritual Disciplines, or Zeal.

Qualifications for Overseers (Servant Leaders): vv1-7 (Acts 20:17-38)

- ✓ Above reproach = No one can point their finger with an accurate accusation. Works hard to right his wrongs.
- ✓ Husband of one wife (D) = No polygamy, pornography, promiscuity, or unbiblical divorce(s) (Matt 19:9/1 Cor 7:15).
- ✓ Sober-minded = Able to say no with your mind when your emotions and body say yes.
- ✓ Self-controlled = Clear and accurate understanding of Christian truth and the ability to put that knowledge into action.
- ✓ Respectable = Consistently work through the toughest of problems with clear, wise and decisive thinking.
- ✓ Hospitable = Open heart and home. Friendly and approachable, not cold and aloof. Genuinely cares for others and their needs.
- ✓ Able to teach = Accurately and clearly explain God's Word.
- ✓ Not a drunkard (D) = No excessive use or addiction of any kind.
- ✓ Not violent = Easily angered, picks fights, overly assertive, manipulative, and insecure.
- ✓ Gentle = Kind, forbearing, reasonable, and fair. Can administer justice with calm resolve, a wise mind and a healing touch.
- ✓ Not quarrelsome = Not a combative or uncooperative spirit.

- ✓ Not a lover of money (D) = Not an excessive spender or saver but wise stewardship of money with a generous heart.
- ✓ Manage his own household well (D) = out of the overflow of a healthy home will come our ability to care for God's church.
- ✓ Not a recent convert = Eldership requires Christian maturity that only comes with time and experience.
- ✓ Well thought of by outsiders = How do non-Christians view him.

Qualifications for Deacons (Leader Servants): vv8-13 (Acts 6:1-7)

- ✓ Dignified = Take their responsibility seriously with respect.
- ✓ Not double tongued = Not say one thing to one person and something else to another.
- ✓ Hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience = Consistency between his beliefs and behavior.
- ✓ Must be tested first = Should not be a novice but a man who has been observed by the church family as capable.
- ✓ Their wives (or deaconesses/Rom 16:1) likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things.

The ministries of Elder and Deacon are the ministries of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Good Shepherd (Elder) of our souls and the Great Servant (Deacon) of our salvation (John 10:11; Mark 10:45).

Growing Notes

- 1) What does it mean that a church (family/nation/organization) rises or falls upon its leadership? This is not a list of what leaders DO but what leaders ARE because what leaders DO flows from what leaders ARE. Explain.
- 2) Read 1 Timothy 3:1-13. These are the telltale marks of spiritual maturity. Which one(s) are your strengths? Which one(s) are growth areas (need some work)?
- 3) How does knowing and regularly experiencing Jesus as the Good Shepherd (Elder) of our souls and the Great Servant (Deacon) of our salvation naturally produce these characteristics of maturity? Spend some time reflecting on this and then bask in the reality of all that you have in Him in prayer.