

Sound Doctrine: 1st Timothy, 2nd Timothy & Titus

The Position of Leadership - Part 1

1st Timothy 3:1-7

End of last chapter women in life, church and ministry Women might desire the role & responsibility Men tend to avoid the role & responsibility (won't grow up) Spiritual laziness Let someone else do it Spiritual apathy Nothing can be done, not my responsibility	Men, whether we're called and gifted to be pastors or not, We <u>are</u> called to be Godly leaders • Christian (learn from those gone before lead for those coming after) • As a man (many men don't have godly examples) (Son, Timothy) • Son, brother, husband, father • In business and public life • Neighbor & citizen • Government or military
Today: Pastors & Elders (spiritual leadership) Next week: Deacons (service leadership) Both <u>servants</u> Corporate ladder goes up Ministry ladder goes down A pastor will clean a toilet and a deacon understands the gospel "Preaching the Word" <u>Church leadership can attract people with mixed and sometimes outrightly sinful motives. The seeming prestige of spiritual leadership attracts some. The lure of power draws others.</u>	<i>The spiritual directing of others' lives can be some heady stuff. <u>Some, I think, like the idea of having access to the supposed mysterious inner workings of the church. All these motives are empty pursuits, but that does not reduce the lure for some.</u> ... Years ago liberals set aside the Pastoral Epistles as too bourgeois and conventional. As a result some evangelicals lost confidence in the relevancy... Today those epistles are radically bracing amid postmodern confusion. We need to take their message to heart for the sake of the gospel. <u>We need to raise the bar and hold it there. We need to see leadership as a calling. Church leadership is not a political position to be sought for oneself. It is a burden that some must accept.</u> Leaders are not determined by popularity. They must be the kind of men profiled here... and the <u>church must recognize who they are.</u> We must see leadership as a calling. We must determine to prepare and equip such leaders."</i>

I'm not in leadership, why do I need to know?

- So you can **find a church** with the right leadership
- So you know **who to trust** with the people **spiritually influencing** you - eternity is on the line
- **You are a part of the church**, you need to know what's healthy and not - and help the leadership stay healthy
- **Maybe you are called or desire it**, you should know the requirements

[Pray] 3:1

Faithful saying - worthy of trust, trusty

If a **man** [who?] certain one,
context is male, we'll see it over & over

Bishop - episkope
Overseer, office, elder

Chess, and I worry about anyone using the title as it sounds extra-religious

Pastors and/or elders?
(ch 5) (Expond)

It's good for a man to desire his Godly calling - to lead!

- To be in leadership
- Especially in the church

Desire - orego -
stretch one's self out in order to grasp

Top shelf at walmart, reaching back at winco

**Being in leadership should be a
stretch for you, too**

God likes to stretch us out

- **Healthy** to stretch! Before exercise
- *"Blessed are the flexible,
for they shall not break"*

**We should desire to be
spiritually stretched!**

**Spiritually stretched,
not spiritually stressed!**

God equips the called
more than he calls the equipped!

Desire + ambition != calling
overly ambitious, insistent not right or not ready

Guys show up asking, insisting they should be teaching, often with wrong ideas and agendas. Want to correct the church but they need the church's healthy correction!

(if time)
Acts 8:18-20
Simon sorcerer, offering to pay apostles so he can have the gift of giving the Holy Spirit

Ministry "schools" - can't get the gift by a class or money. You can learn doctrine and how to exercise!

So how to become a leader? Psa 37:4 – Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. A good leader is first a good follower Follow Jesus, follow your leaders Then Do the work! Not to be seen, but to serve <i>See the need, and do it</i> “Dress for the job you want!” <u>David in the field with the sheep when Samuel shows up</u> Being ordained is just the leadership putting their stamp of approval on what God is already doing in and through you	(you were already doing the work of the ministry) In the world: Apply for the job, then do the work In the church: Do the work, then get the job Being a pastor or elder isn't a job! • It's not a role to fill • It's calling • It requires spiritual gifts • Spiritual gifts have a proper order of use and order of <i>It's no wonder why these pastors in and out, effective after 7 years, most last 4</i> Elder Rule vs. Moses Model (another time)?
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1Co 12:1, 4-6, 11, 29-31 – Now concerning spiritual [gifts], brethren, I do not want you to be **ignorant**: ... There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ... But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. ... **[Are] all apostles? [Are] all prophets? [Are] all teachers? [Are] all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best [more useful] gifts.** And yet I show you a more excellent way.

Eph 4:11-13 – And He Himself gave some [to be] apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;**

James 3:1-2a – My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. For we all stumble in many things. ...

“If you can do anything else, do that.” Every good pastor I’ve known has said they can’t do anything else in light of the cross. <i>Jeremiah, heart burned when held back</i> If a man desires it, to do it, his life <u>must</u> look like the next six verses	:2-3 Blameless in these matters • Not perfect, but a spiritual life in order • Not living in sin Who has to see them this way? The church, the leaders, & some extent, the world
(if time) 1 Tim 5:22a “Do not lay hands on anyone hastily...”	• Time to be observed, patterns of behavior • Sometimes it takes years • <u>Don’t ignore that “check” in your spirit</u>
<u>Husband of one wife</u> • Still think the role is for a woman? • A pastors’ wife is not co-pastor Two types of pastor’s wives • Alongside on the front lines, serving family & the body • Alongside out of sight, serving in other ways <u>We hurt pastor’s wives</u> when we expect his calling to be her calling. She has her own calling, separate gifting. And it may not be in service to you!	One wife, Sorry polygamists! Never divorced? 1. If a believer, and unbelieving wife left and he was blameless, sure 2. If a believer, and at spiritual/sin fault in the divorce, no 3. If divorced as an unbeliever, now a believer, sure Why? Church is a family. <u>If he can’t be faithful to his wife, treat her right, how will he take care of Jesus’ bride?</u>
Temperate, sober minded Abstaining from wine, immoderate use <i>Wine then vs. now, we have options IMO, no reason for a pastor to drink</i> Sound mind - sane! Self controlled • His thinking is rational • Not a wild conspiracy theorist	<i>Conspiracies, I enjoy exploring and sharpening, never push or think I know 100%</i> Eph 4:14 – that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, Jas 1:8 – [he is] a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Which Leads to good behavior	Seemly, <u>modest</u> ! In dress, in appearance, in life!
Leads to being hospitable Is his home open? Anyone ever been there? Invited in to his personal space? See what he's really up to? <i>Prophets quarters, Elisha</i> <i>Invited to MT, Invited to Japan</i> Shepherds should be around the sheep! Walls between "clergy" and "layman" Why would you ever want someone to pastor you who doesn't want to ever see you?	• <i>Not that you have to be best friends</i> • <i>Danger to giving phone number or address</i> He's around church at least • Does he dart out after service? • Hide in his office? • Generally available? • Meet and greet? • At events and people's homes? <i>My pastor having folks over from time-to-time, letting me stay at his house, letting me drive his jeep</i> If you go over your pastors house, do you feel welcome?
Able to teach <i>Notice how far down teaching is.</i> Still a gift, exercised Does he ever teach? Can he teach? Does he even want to? • Pastors are always teachers and regular teachers are always pastors (Eph. 4:11)	• Feeding and caring and leading are inseparable trinity of senior leadership • Elders don't have to regularly teach the Bible, but they can when called upon • Elders understand, live and can communicate doctrine • One senior teacher, but others fill in, do other classes, etc. • Just teaching pastor? What's being taught is how God is leading the body
:3 Not given to wine again Doesn't really desire it before, and he's certainly not addicted to it, doesn't ever get drunk	Violent - physically, abusive Pastor John Lovell, former Army Ranger Argumentative • Not apologetics, answering a fool • But likes picking fleshly fights • Turns everything into an argument

• Not fighting with the flight attendant • Not Arguing with the store manager • Not Road raging in the parking lot <i>If time, pastor at men's conference stoking a discussion</i>	Not greedy for money If you're greedy for money, being in ministry is not a godly path to riches <i>Benefits of being a pastor "Great pay, lots of time off, everyone is always happy with you"</i> <i>Many who fleece the flock, OT priests</i>
Gentle - patient, <u>fair</u>, mild Solomon was fair in judgment Opposite of argumentative Phl 4:5 – Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord [is] at hand. Not covetous Of things, money, relationships or even <u>other ministries</u>	1Ti 6:9-11 – 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. But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.
:4-5 Church is God's family! The way a pastor is at home is far more important than how he is on a Sunday - it's his 1st ministry <u>How can you tell?</u> Look at his wife, their <u>relationship</u> If his wife won't submit to his leadership? Why should you? If he doesn't love her, he won't love you! Look at his children, their <u>relationship</u> If his kids are unruly, how will he raise you? <i>Pastors advice to not miss my kids growing</i>	:6 Not a novice! Literally, newly planted, NEW BELIEVER <u>Age isn't a requirement, but maturity is</u> Remember being a kid? Wanting to be old! Remember being a teen? Knowing it all? Everyone matures at different rates, but being a good leader is going to take deep roots to withstand and maturely handle everything that comes with serving God and leading his people <i>Moses - tried to rescue his countrymen...</i> Notice how education isn't listed... But he shouldn't be new and know nothing - lifelong learner, love the bible!

Education != qualification Study is good, learning is necessary Can't not know the Bible and doctrine (Paul went away for 3 years) 2 Tim 2:15 KJV Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But you can't learn the call You can't earn the gift Seminary = cemetery A degree means nothing without God's Spirit Putting into ministry too early is a snare	:7 Devil mentioned twice - pride, hypocrisy Needs to be respectable in church and out of church Can't be playing church Serving in church on Sunday Partying in the Bar for Monday Night Football Teaching on Wednesday Cheating in business on Thursday What is his behavior and reputation in the community, at his job, with his neighbors?
What do we do when looking for a pastor? What qualifies him to us? Is it the same list that God has? Same order? • Do we want to see his educational resume first? • Does it matter more to us than his character? • Is he a good example of Jesus to his family? • His love for Jesus and the people? Is the love of Jesus in his life evident? And a life submitted to that love? Does He love God? Family? Neighbors? Does he have a track record of living up to these qualifications?	• Is he willing to do anything? Clean toilets? Teach? • Does he love you or fleece you? • Is he willing to take responsibility for the flock? • Does he have the roots to take the heat? • Will he bail at a better "job"? <u>All of the requirements are meant to reveal a man submitted to Jesus,</u> called to teach you Jesus' Words rightly, and help you follow Jesus - all under Jesus 1 Peter 5:2-4 – Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when <u>the Chief Shepherd appears</u>, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

