

# 1 Timothy

pass it on

June 7, 2009



Church ministry should not be seen as menial or unattractive, but a noble calling. As a result, those who serve in leadership of the church are held to high standards.

## Passage of focus: 1 Timothy 3:1-16

### *Elders Elucidated* vs 1-7

- What is an elder?
- How is an elder different from a deacon?
- What of these requirements?
- What does it mean to manage the family, children, and household well?
- What if the leader has unbelieving children? (cf. Titus 1:6)
- Why is malicious talking mentioned? (vs 11)

### *Deacons & Deaconesses Described* vs 8-13

- Is a deaconess 1) a wife of a deacon, 2) any women in the church, or 3) a special role of leadership?
- What does it mean to be a husband of one wife?
  - Unmarried?
  - Divorced?

### *Why Lead?* vs 14-16

- A high view of the church
  - vs 1 *noble task*
  - vs 13 *excellent standing, great assurance*
  - vs 15 *God's household*
  - vs 15 *church of the living God*
  - vs 15 *pillar and foundation of truth*
- A high view of the Lord of the church

## Where Do I Grow from Here? (Personal and Growth Group Questions)

*You and others will benefit most by recording your answers in advance of your Growth Group meeting.*

**Bible references in this text style are optional for you to research.**

### *Interact*

- 1) As a child, how did you treat your babysitters? How did they treat you?
- 2) Do you enjoy babysitting?

### *Observe and Interpret*

- 3) What are the top three qualities you look for in a Christian leader?
- 4) In light of the struggle with false teachers, why is Timothy given this list of qualifications for leadership? What is Paul's main concern?
- 5) How will the Ephesian church change if these standards are applied to its leaders? How would your church change? What if a church is desperate for leaders, what should it do?
- 6) What is the principle in verses 4-5? What if a godly man who meets the other qualifications has a child who is rebellious and a troublemaker?
- 7) What is the principle in verse 6?
- 8) Why is verse 7 important?
- 9) What do you learn about Jesus in verse 16?

### *Apply*

- 10) Although applied specifically to leaders here, why are these qualities important for all Christians?
- 11) Of these qualities, what are two or three you have made progress with in this past year? In which area do you want to grow now? How can this group help you?
- 12) What positions in your church are the equivalent to those of overseers and deacons? Are these basic guidelines followed?

### **EXTRA EXPLORATION:**

**HYMNS IN THE EARLY CHURCH** Match each of the following verses to one of the phrases in 1 Timothy 3:16. (Colossians 2:15; Colossians 1:23; Ephesians 4:10; Hebrews 1:6, and Philipians 2:9)

**Verse 16 is an early hymn. See Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:6 for mention of hymns.**

**Philipians 2:5-11 is an example of another early church hymn.**

**ELDERS, OVERSEERS, BISHOPS** For more study of elder, overseers, or bishop see Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2,3; 1 Timothy 5:17-20.

**ELDER or PASTOR?** A pastor is mentioned only once in the Bible in Ephesians 4:11. Essentially, a pastor is one of the elders of a local church (see Titus 1:5 and 7).

**ROLES OF ELDERS, DEACONS & DEACONESSES** The unique roles of an elder, rather than a deacon, are to 1) govern / rule / oversee and 2) be able to teach as a way of leading the church. (1 Timothy 3:2; 5:17; Titus 1:9)

**Deacon and deaconesses are to have more practical, physical, & material service (Acts 6:2-4).**

**For mention of both elders (overseers) and deacons, see Philipians 1:1.**

**For the appointment of elders, see Acts 14:23; 20:17; and Titus 1:5.**

**For the first selection of deacons: Acts 6:2-4.**