

House Rules
Functioning as the Church
Week 07: Leadership in the Church (Part 1) - Elders

Scripture

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Motivation (Why They Need to Know It)

What were the reasons for Paul's writing?

- To confront false teachers who had infiltrated the church (1 Timothy 1)
- To establish proper conduct in the churches at Ephesus (circular letter)
 - Prayer among the church (1 Timothy 2:1-7)
 - Conduct of men and women (men should lead in prayer dependence; women are to be modest, learn in submissiveness, and not exercise authority over men)

Information (What They Need to Know)

Paul now informs about who's qualified to exercise authority/teach the congregation.

Three Considerations for the Office of Pastor...

What are his Aspirations? (1 Timothy 3:1a)

1 Timothy 3:1 (ESV) The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.

- A man is not qualified just because he is male
- Not everyone desiring the office is qualified (Paul goes into greater detail)

What is his Motivation? (1 Timothy 3:1b)

1 Timothy 3:1 (ESV) The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.

- What is the meaning of overseer (also elder, pastor, and shepherd)?
 - Greek "over" (*epi*) "watcher" (*skopos*) (one with oversight of the church)
 - The **structure** of the office does not seem to be as critical as a man's **character**
- **What do the Scriptures require of overseers?**
 - **Work hard at preaching and teaching**

1 Timothy 5:17 (ESV) Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

"Preaching is God speaking in the power of His Spirit about His Son from His word through a man." - Thabiti Anyabwile

○ **Challenges others to take next steps**

1 Thessalonians 5:12 (ESV) ... respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, **13** and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. **14** And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle [*disorderly, or undisciplined*] encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

○ **Watch out for the people**

1 Peter 5:1 (ESV) So I exhort the elders among you... **2** shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; **3** not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

✓ **Shepherd**

✓ **Oversee**

✓ **Not in it for selfish gain, power, or control**

✓ **Has a passion to be an example for others**

What are his Qualifications? (1 Timothy 3:2-7)

- Above Reproach (accusations don't stick)
- Husband of one wife (one-woman man)
- Sober-minded (watchful and clear-headed)
- Self-controlled (disciplined; organized priorities)
- Respectable (free from a chaotic life)
- Hospitable (welcoming of others)
- Able to teach (ability to properly teach and apply God's Word)
- Not a drunkard (doesn't have a reputation as a drinker; judgment isn't impaired)
- Not violent (doesn't react to difficulty with abusive words or physical violence)
- Gentle (considerate and quick to pardon)
- Not Quarrelsome (someone who promotes unity and is reluctant to fight)
- Not a lover of money (not motivated by money, but love for God and others)
- Good manager of his own home

1 Timothy 3:4 (ESV) He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, **5** for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?

- **Not a recent convert (not a new Christian)**

1 Timothy 3:6 (ESV) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil.

- **Well thought of by those outside the church**

1 Timothy 3:7 (ESV) Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders...

Application (What They Need to Do)

Action Steps...

- Know what is expected from your leaders
- Your leaders are accountable to God for these qualifications