

I Timothy 3 – 28 January 2024

“A Leader’s Character”

Introduction

*For those of you that enjoy outlines, I Timothy’s 6 chapters is outlined as TILDAS

*Teaching, Intimacy, Leaders, Dangers, Aged, & Suspicious

*‘Tilda’ is French word from ancient Germanic for ‘*mighty in battle*’ or ‘*mighty in strength*’

*Key verse of the book (Read) I Tim 1:18

*Paul opened with the importance of solid teaching

*In Chap 2, he discusses a manner of praying & teaching in the church that brings intimacy

*Now Chap 3, we see a Christian leader’s character

*The Bible is much clearer about Church leaders’ character than about church governmental structure

*God is looking for men & women filled with His Spirit to ignite rest of the church into motion

Today, we’ll look at 3 callings of godly leaders

#1 – Elders lead with godly character (Vs 1-7)

Read Vs 1

1. Bishop is the word episkopos or *overseer*
 - a. Interchangeably used w/ the word/office *elder* (see Tit 1:5, 7)
2. The job of the elder is to “feed the flock” or to “shepherd the sheep” (Read I Pet 5:1-2)
3. To want this position is good, but it’s not to be rushed into (Jam 3:1), there’re biblical qualifications
 - a. Character – Listed in I Tim 3 & Tit 1
 - b. Calling – Moses (Exo 3), Joshua [a man in whom is the spirit] (Num 27), & Paul (Gal 1)
 - c. Confirmation – Men agree you know Jesus (Act 4 & I Tim 4:14)

Read Vs 2

1. “*Blameless*” – unrebukable, cannot be arrested
 - a. Don’t allow there to be things others can “*take hold of*”
2. “*Husband of one wife*” – one is *mia* for singular
 - a. Paul could have here used the word *proto* for first, but he didn’t

3. “*Vigilant*” & “*Sober*” – similar words, discreet, of sound mind, self-controlled, not given to passion
4. “*Of good behavior*” – modest, well-arranged behavior as in I Tim 2:9
5. “*Given to hospitality*” – passion to host guests
6. “*Apt to teach*” – able to instruct w/ God’s Word
7. Vs 2 shows one that’s clean & focused on others

Read Vs 3

1. “*Not given to wine*” – If you feel like you have to stay near alcohol, you’re not qualified
2. Our service should be free of artificial stimulants
3. “*No Striker*” & “*Not a brawler*” – stirring up a situation only b/c you want the fight
 - a. We may stir things as we give the Word, but it’s not for a fight, but for a chance of conversion
4. “*Patient*” – moderate, not going to extremes
5. “*Not greedy of filthy lucre*” & “*Not covetous*” – Are you content w/ the state the Lord has you in?
6. So vs 3 shows one that is living a satisfied life

Read Vs 4-5

1. Why does ruling the home show prerequisite for ruling the in the church?
 - a. In home we have full ability to implement our teachings, in the church only partial
2. Note, this is speaking of minor children
 - a. It IS our duty to direct kids – not free range
 - b. It ISN'T our duty to be responsible for our adult kids– even well-raised kids have free will

Read Vs 6

1. “*Not a novice*” – Literally, not a new convert
2. A pastor must already be established in the essential doctrines of the faith w/o changing them
3. Many men will tempt you to change your beliefs
 - a. You'll be tempted to do it for prideful reasons

Read Vs 7

1. Not just a good reputation w/i the church like vs 2, but a good reputation outside the church
 - a. Paul was hated for the gospel, but he wasn't hated b/c he was a thief or liar

#2 – Deacons serve with godly character (Vs 8-13)

Read Vs 8

1. Vss 8-10, we're going over the character for these roles, not the duties
 - a. We learn the duties of a deacon from Acts 6
2. Deacon = *minister* or *waiter on the wall*
3. “*Grave*” – honest & of substance to be venerated
4. “*Double-tongued*” speaking clearly w/o hypocrisy
5. “*Wine & lucre*” – living a satisfied life

Read Vs 9

1. It's like the child-like faith Jesus talked about
2. Following church leadership w/ great devotion
3. Not always skeptical, but having a heart to serve

Read Vs 10

1. Watch their lifestyle & heart, then you'll know
2. A deacon is doing the ministry from the heart, then they're recognized for what they already are

Read Vs 11a

1. This could apply to both male deacon's wives and female deacons

- a. The language allows for both
- b. Rom 16:1 speaks of female deacon Phoebe

Read Vs 11b

1. “*Grave*” to be venerable or honorable
2. “*Not slanderers*” – thoughtful speaking of others
3. “*Sober*” is to be in control of self – not controlled by circumstances, emotions or victimhood
4. “Faithful” – Trustworthy & showing dedication

Read Vs 12

1. “Husband of one wife” – just as the elders
2. There should be leadership & control on the home front just as with the elders
 - a. This doesn’t negate the possibility that kids become disobedient adults (with free-will)

Read Vs 13

1. There’s little doubt that there will be very many deacons & hidden heroes exalted in the Kingdom to a much higher degree than some pastors & known personalities

#3 – All leaders draw from the Spirit of God to declare godliness (Vs 14-16)

Read Vs 14-15

1. Paul wants to come help Timothy establish this structure at Ephesus
 - a. But in the meantime, they now know how to orchestrate themselves in order
2. The church is the House of God
 - a. OT “the House” was Temple in Jerusalem
 - b. This is a bit of a comparison saying “the living God” is w/ us & not in Temple any longer
3. But notice the church is seen as the grounding point to the church
 - a. It’s expected to take the message beyond the church or house of God
 - b. The church is the edifying place to them go out and be effective in the world
4. Leaders are held to a high standard of behavior
 - a. The only thing some people will ever see of God are church leaders
 - b. Read Jam 3:1 – After David sinned, Nathan said he caused enemies of God to blaspheme

Read Vs 16

1. How do we seek to hold a high standard?
 - a. We seek to live as Jesus lived
 - b. Empowered by the Spirit of God
2. There should be no controversy regarding these things of Jesus' life
3. At the end of the day, a Christian leader's character should seek to mirror the character of Christ by being empowered by the Spirit of Christ

Conclusion

So, within limits, there's not a specific church govt style but there is a certain character of the people in it

1. **Pastors/Elders are to lead w/ godly character**
2. **Deacons (M&F) are to serve w/ godly character**
3. **All leaders should draw from the Spirit of God to declare godliness to the world**