



“Christian Leadership!”

1 Timothy Chapter 3

I) QUALIFICATIONS OF BISHOPS (v1-7)

II) QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS (v8-13)

III) WE ARE THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD (v14-16)

IV) THE SHEPHERD AND THE CHURCH (A statement)

Introduction: “The term *leader* occurs only six times, three times in the singular and three in the plural. That is not to say that the theme is not prominent in the Bible, but it is usually referred to in different terms, the most prominent being *servant*. It is not “Moses, my leader,” but “Moses, my servant.” The emphasis is consonant with Christ’s teaching on the subject.” – J. Oswald Sanders

- Let us first look at leadership found in the Old Testament through a Moses education – Exodus 13:18-27

> Now let us look to Christian leadership according to 1 Timothy Chapter 3:

I) QUALIFICATIONS OF BISHOPS (v1-7)

- “*Bishops*” – The word *Bishop* means *Overseer, such as Pastors and Elders*. These are the men who are responsible for leading and taking care of God’s flock, the church.

~ Qualifications of Bishops:

- 1- Blameless- Without reproach.
- 2- Husband of one wife- One-woman man.
- 3- Temperate- Clear headed, alert.
- 4- Sober-minded- Self control.
- 5- Good behavior- Orderly lives.
- 6- Hospitable- Love of strangers.
- 7- Able to teach
- 8- Not given to wine
- 9- Not violent- A brawler.
- 10- Not greedy for money
- 11- Gentle- Considerate, gracious.
- 12- Not quarrelsome- Argumentative.
- 13- Not covetous- Always in want.
- 14- Rules his house well
- 15- Children well-behaved & respectful
- 16- Not a novice- New Christian.
- 17- A good testimony- A changed life.
- 18- A witness to the world- Shares his faith.

~ Let us look at an Elder's example:

- Back to the future through Peter's life and calling - John 21:15-19 - *So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?"*

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?"

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?"

And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You."

Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep. Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

- 1 Peter 5:1-7 (A good shepherd will feed, tend, guide, and protect the sheep.)

- Elders are also called to labor in Word and doctrine – 1 Timothy 5:17-18 - *Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.*

- Pastors must train others to teach - 2 Timothy 2:1-2 - *You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

II) QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS (v8-13)

- "Deacons" - "to serve" - To denote any service in the church. Deacons serve under the leadership of elders, helping them exercise oversight in the practical matters of church life. Scripture defines no official or specific responsibilities for deacons; they are to do whatever the elders assign them or whatever spiritual ministry is necessary.

Qualifications of Deacons:

1- Reverent- In mind & character.

2- Not double-tongued- Hypocritical.

3- Not given to much wine

4- Not greedy for money

5- Holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.

6- Must be tested for service- Ongoing evaluation.

7- Blameless

8- Wife qualifications – Reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.

9- One wife & children ruled well.

- *The heart of ministry (service) is found in Mark 10:35-45*

- *Mark 9:35-36 - And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."*

- *Matt 23:11-12 - But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.*

- *Ministry in Action – Acts 6 (Stephen & Philip)*

**(There are various Mysteries found in God's Word - The word "mystery" describes truth previously hidden, but now revealed, including Christ's incarnation (v. 16), Christ's indwelling of believers (Col. 1:26,27), the unity of Jews and Gentiles in the church (Eph. 3:4-6), the gospel (Col. 4:3), lawlessness (2 Thess. 2:7), and the rapture of the church (1 Cor. 15:51,52).)*

- Quotes on leadership - Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 - *And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*

Lord Montgomery- "Leadership is the capacity and will to rally men and women to a common purpose, and the character which inspires confidence."

Fleet Admiral Nimitz said, "Leadership may be defined as that quality in a leader that inspires sufficient confidence in his subordinates as to be willing to accept his views and carry out his commands."

An old Chinese leader, Li Hung Chang said, "There are only three kinds of people in the world those that are immovable, those that are movable, and those that move them!"

President Truman defined leadership, "A leader is a person who has the ability to get others to do what they don't want to do and like it."

D.E. Hoste, general director of the China Inland Mission said in regard to discovering leaders, "It occurs to that perhaps the best test of whether one is a qualified leader, is to find out whether anyone is following him."

III) WE ARE THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD (v14-16)

(v15) Today the *ground of truth* is eroding, and the *pillars* are being toppled. We must sure up the foundation of CREATION, the TRINITY, the DEITY OF CHRIST; maintain the pillars of SALVATION (sin & repentance), JUSTIFICATION THROUGH FAITH, REGENERATION BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, the 2ND COMING OF CHRIST!

- “Mystery of godliness” – One commentator writes, “Godliness refers to the truths of salvation and righteousness in Christ, which produce holiness in believers; namely, the manifestation of true and perfect righteousness in Jesus Christ. God was manifested. The reference is clearly to Christ, who manifested the invisible God to mankind (John 1:1–4; 14:9; Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3; 2 Pet. 1:16–18). in the flesh. Not sinful, fallen human nature here (cf. Rom. 7:18,25; 8:8; Gal. 5:16,17), but merely humanness (cf. John 1:14; Rom. 1:3; 8:3; 9:5; 1 Pet. 3:18; 1 John 4:2,3; 2 John 7). Justified in the Spirit. “Justified” means “righteous,” so that “spirit” may be written with lower case “s” indicating a declaration of Christ’s sinless spiritual righteousness (John 8:46; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; 5:9; 7:26; 1 Pet. 2:21,22; 1 John 2:1), or it could refer to His vindication by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 1:4). Seen by angels. Both by fallen (*Col. 2:15; 1 Pet. 3:18–20*) and elect (Matt. 28:2; Luke 24:4–7; Acts 1:10,11; Heb. 1:6–9) angels. Preached among the Gentiles. Or nations. See Matt. 24:14; 26:13; 28:19,20; Mark 13:10; Acts 1:8. Received up in glory. See Acts 1:9,10; Phil. 2:8–11; Heb. 1:3. Christ’s ascension and exaltation showed that the Father was pleased with Him and accepted His work fully.”

IV) THE SHEPHERD AND THE CHURCH

In the book Rediscovering Pastoral Ministry we read the following, “Ministering in the church constitutes the highest privilege. Nothing could be more honorable or have greater eternal significance than serving our Christ in His church. This privilege is also the most serious responsibility a person can undertake. Fulfilling this privilege and discharging this responsibility demands a comprehension of the church and its ministries that is correct according to God’s Word. In order to grasp the issues of the church and establish that understanding as a foundation for ministry, we need to understand a few basic truths.”

~ HERE ARE 10 TRUTHS ON WHAT THE CHURCH IS:

- 1) The church is the only institution that our Lord promised to build and to bless (Mt. 16:18).
- 2) The church is the gathering place of true worshipers (Phil. 3:3).
- 3) The church is the most precious assembly on earth since Christ purchased it with His own blood (Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 6:19; Eph. 5:25; Col. 1:20; 1 Peter 1:18; Rev. 1:5).
- 4) The church is the earthly expression of heavenly reality (Mt. 6:10; 18:18).
- 5) The church will ultimately triumph both universally and locally (Mt. 16:18; Phil. 1:6).
- 6) The church is the realm of spiritual fellowship (Heb. 10:22-25; 1 Jn. 1:3,6-7)

- 7) The church is the proclaimer and protector of divine truth (1 Tim. 3:15; Titus 2:1,15).**
- 8) The church is the chief place for spiritual edification and growth (Acts 20:32; Eph. 4:11-16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Peter 2:1-2; 2 Peter 3:18).**
- 9) The church is the launching pad for world evangelization (Mk. 16:15; Titus 2:11).**
- 10) The church is an environment where strong spiritual leadership develops and matures (2 Tim. 2:2)**

The ten items above are precisely why I love the church and have devoted my life to it. Understanding those truths is the foundation of effective ministry. Unless spiritual men devoted to these realities lead the church, the next generation of churches will not be without blemish . . . Every church leader is a shepherd. A shepherd leads, feeds, nurtures, comforts, corrects, and protects—responsibilities that belong to every churchman. Shepherds are without status. Under the plan God has ordained for the church, leadership is a position of humble, loving service. Church leadership is ministry not management.