

1 Timothy 3:1-15

The Church and Her Ministers

1 Timothy God's heart for His Church

Outline:

- Ch. 1 The Church and her message
- Ch.2 The Church and her members
- Ch.3 The Church and her ministers

It was Warren Wiersbe who said this about being a Pastor- it is a high and holy Calling!

A) True it is a sacred and serious calling to take care of God's Bride - that is what he calls his church - his bride.

B) When Denise and I got married - I was 22 and she was 21.

C) I was so immature. - I thought I knew everything - but I didn't know anything about being a husband.

Like a lot of young men - my mentality about marriage was pretty selfish.

A) How is Denise going to fulfill my needs? How is she going to help me in my calling?

B) How is she going to be a blessing to me in life and ministry.

C) I told you before - Lamest proposal - no ring - not much fore thought

1) I didn't call her Dad and ask for permission - in fact I didn't even meet her parents until after we were engaged.

D) There was no test - there wasn't any qualifications - all that mattered was she liked me and wanted to be with me -

1) I liked her and wanted to be with her - and Love would see us through.

E) Well we have made it almost 37 years {Next week Anniversary but it has taken a lot more than love

1) Hard work - patience and a lot of forgiveness - especially from her

Premarital counseling was eye opening - I don't have a clue!

A) There are requirements and qualifications

B) So it shouldn't surprise you that when a young man came asking for my youngest daughters hand in marriage -

1) I grilled him - How are you going to take care of my daughter

C) Well it shouldn't surprise us that God has some pretty beefy qualifications for those who are called to take care of his Bride!

1 Timothy 3 gives us Qualifications and Character of a Pastors and Deacons

A) Start with Pastors

*This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. ² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; ³ not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; ⁴ one who rules his own house well, having *his* children in submission with all reverence ⁵ (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); ⁶ not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the *same* condemnation as the devil. ⁷ Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*

Opening statement: **This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.**

A) "bishop," "pastor," and "elder" are used interchangeably throughout the New Testament,

B) Bishop – Ministry= Overseer – watches out for the Flock – their care and their protection

1) Elder- The Man – One who is spiritually mature

2) Pastor- The Method = Shepherd one who feeds the flock and tends the flock or cares for its wellbeing.

C) Paul says those who desire that type of role in the family of God – Desire a good work!

1) But it is work - takes a special call - 24/7 - The wife has to sense the calling too.

D) Your wife and kids will have to learn to share you with a lot of other people.

E) There will be times when you get called away from the family dinner table - emergency - crisis in someone's family

1) Times when your vacation gets interrupted by a phone call

Qualifications for a Pastor

A) Blameless = a man of Godly Character - blameless = above reproach

B) Beyond accusation- If anyone were to bring an accusation against his character or conduct -

1) it doesn't stick - because of his exemplary reputation

C) No merit to the accusation- We should Vet his family - people he works with and people who know him well in the church

Proven in his marriage

The husband of one wife. = A ONE WOMAN MAN! Committed to his wife

A) Now does that mean that a Pastor has to be married? NO - Paul wasn't married

B) But if he is married - he needs to be committed to his wife - Fulfilling his role as a husband

C) Ministry is not an excuse for a man to neglect his primary ministry-which is after His relationship to Jesus - His wife

1) Person, Partner, Parent, Pastor

D) This is a mistake that I have seen many Pastors make - the ministry becomes their mistress

1) Easy when things are going well at church and are strained at home - to spend more time on the ministry.

2) Validation from the church they are not getting at home. - {So wonderful ☺

Now that statement the husband of one wife - would seem to clearly indicate that a Pastor is supposed to be a man and not a woman.

A) If you have been following the news lately you are aware that there is an age old controversy in the Church - New traction

B) The Controversy centers around the question: Can women be Pastors?

C) The lead Pastor of a church or Pastors period as in assistants?

Several prominent churches have pulled out of the SBC - (the Southern Baptist Convention of churches) - Over this issue

A) Two theological terms that you will hear associated with this issue:

B) Egalitarian - Women are equal to men - both created in the image of God and so a woman can do anything a man can do in the church

C) Then there are Complementarians

1) The women's role is to compliment the man in his calling -

Now I want to admit- I have not done an exhaustive study of this issue in my own personal studies.

A) But from my limited studies and understanding of the Scriptures text - Our position here at Calvary Vista - is Complementarian

B) That has been the general agreed position within CC for as long as I can remember.

C) This verse here in 1 Timothy 3 is a good reason for that view - the text seems to clearly indicate that the role of a pastor is reserved for men

I want to be clear that - the reason, just like in Marriage - where God clearly specifies that men are to be the head

A) Is not because men are smarter, more spiritual, or better than women in any way.

B) It is a matter of order, calling and responsibility.

1) God set it up this way in the church and in the home for a reason

C) That reason might not make sense to us -but we need to trust that God is smarter than us and knows what he is doing.

Let's talk for a few minutes about the role of women in the church.

A) Last week one of our Elders Rick Barsh taught chapter 2 - he did a good job in going through the chapter

B) When we got to V. v.11-14 I think he did a good job of explaining God's heart on the matter

1) But he didn't get into the specifics of the text - and it is a hard text to deal with

C) So I want to briefly hit on it tonight - because it really sets up the CONTEXT for the passage we are dealing with tonight

¹¹ Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. ¹² And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴ And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

A) Last week Rick talked about how men are called to be prayer warriors

B) We get that and understand that but then Paul says and women are to learn in silence and submission -

1) What is that all about? - What is the deal - that sounds so chauvinistic.

C) First of all - the phrase - *Let a woman learn in silence* - the word silence is a poor translation in the NKJV bible

D) The proper interpretation of the word silence is without contention

1) In fact it is the same word used in 1 Timothy 2:2 for peaceable

Paul taught a similar thing to the church in Corinth - women were to stay silent in the church - Context seating - hey Harry....

A) I don't know if there was a similar seating situation in Ephesus where Timothy was pastoring - that was a part of this instruction

B) Or if some of the women were just prone to challenge authority - so Paul instructs - let them learn without contention

1) Being in Submission - that would be to their husbands and to the leadership of the church -

C) Submission is the principle; to learn in silence or without contention describes the application of the principle.

D) God wants order in his church gatherings - not the setting for debates and questions and answers

1) Bereans were commended - they went home and searched the scriptures

Paul continues - ¹² And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence - (again peaceable not contentious)

A) Really the idea of being peaceable and not contentious applies to both the men and the women

B) But for some reason here: Paul is singling out the women - probably because some were having a problem in this area.

C) But what is meant by the phrase: *I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man,*

Bible Scholar David Guzik is helpful here:

A) The command that women should not teach or have authority over the men of the church is really one command, not two.

B) Saying that - Women should not teach in the church in a way that takes authority or replaces the authority God has ordered in the church.

C) Paul's meaning seems clear. Women are not to have the role of teaching authority in the church.

1) To be *under authority* is the principle; *not teaching* is the application.

D) Put simply - women are not called to be in that Pastor role

Now what is interesting about this subject is that we do see women in the NT who were ministering in specific ways.

A) Women played a significant role in the earthly ministry of Jesus

B) Women were the last at the Cross and the first at the tomb.

C) Mary Mag was the first person to see Jesus risen - but she was not called or appointed by Jesus as an apostle

Romans 16:1 Phoebe was called the servant of the church Cenchrea-

I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, ² that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also.

A) the word servant there is deacon - idea women can be deacons in the church

B) Regardless Phoebe seems to have a prominent role of some type in the ministry in that church.

C) In that same passage - Paul instructs to ³ Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, {Husband and wife team who assisted Paul

D) Priscilla joined her husband in teaching Apollos to solidify his doctrine

E) The Daughters of Philip were called Prophetesses - Prophetic ministry in the church Acts 21:9

Women are not excluded from Paul list of gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12.

A) So it would seem from the broad view of the NT - women can do anything a man can do in the church - except be a Pastor.

B) The reason Paul gives for this traces back to creation - ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴ And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

C) I don't have time to break this down tonight in detail but let me offer these two observations.

1) The caution is against A woman's curiosity and a man's passivity

D) Eve's mistake was being curious - wandering into the part of the garden where she didn't belong -

1) tree of the knowledge of good and evil. -

E) Women in general seem to have more of a Hunger curiosity toward spiritual matters by more Christians books -

1) More faithful in church attendance and Bible study

But Paul points out that Eve was deceived - Adam wasn't he just followed his wife's lead

A) Adam's problem was Passiveness - **She gave it to her husband who was with her!**

B) Adam Passively watched his wife - wander into the part of the garden where she didn't belong

1) He watched as she has this interaction with the serpent

C) Men are still following the way of Adam - taking a passive role in not leading their families - My wife will do Devos?

1) My wife will pray with the kids

D) Perhaps God knowing - what would be the natural tendency of fallen men - in their families

1) And the natural tendency of women toward spiritual things - didn't want that in his church

E) So he made it very clear - Men are to be the pastors

Back to the Qualifications

Proven in his marriage

Proven in his character

A) Temperate: **Not given to extremes**

B) Sober-minded: Able to think clearly and with clarity.

C) Good behavior: **Orderly in his conduct**

1) Conducts himself with moderation and self-control.

D) Hospitable: **Loving the Stranger.**

1) They are willing and able to open up their homes when needed.

E) Apt to teach: **Able to effectively communicate God's word.**

1) Groups or one on one -

Proven in his conduct v.3:

A)Not given to wine: to not sit long with - carries the idea of being dependent upon wine.

B)Not violent - not abusive.- Not lording his power over others

Not given to money: When a person respond to the call of full time ministry

A)Responding to a lifestyle of less

B)Why Paul also mentions not covetous -in this list can't always be looking at what others have that you don't have.

Not given to money - but gentle - patient or moderation - learning to live in moderation - not excessive

Not quarrelsome - itching for a good argument.- learn to walk away

Proven in his home life

⁴ one who rules his own house well, having *his* children in submission with all reverence ⁵ (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?)

Rules = manages

Carries the idea of governing, leading, & giving direction to the family.

B)Notice he doesn't speak of managing a business" but a *home*!

C)Why? The church is a **family**, not a business!

1)"It has a **heavenly Father**, not a chairman of the board. **Brothers & sisters**, not shareholders.

D)Hardest lesson to learn - you can't treat the body like a business -

1)Have to be more patient - body is inner connected

E)Note Word for Children here and in Titus one is Teknon refers to children in the home -who are at that formative age.

1)(late teens - out of the house- not applicable)

Also the word children here is plural - meaning we have to look at the all the kids.

A)Meaning if a man has 4 kids and 3 of them love Jesus and are great kids and well behaved -

B)but one of them is a prodigal - that one kid doesn't disqualify him

1)He is judged by the family as a whole.

C)Now if all his kids are rebellious and want nothing to do with God -

1)I don't care how good of a Bible teacher or leader he is - he would be unqualified.

D)But if all his kids are great and following Jesus and following Jesus and one strays - that doesn't disqualify him

Proven in his home life

Proven in his experience -

A)Not a Novice - Not a new believer { Pride!

B)Why was the devil—Lucifer—initially condemned? Because of pride (Isaiah 14:12–15).

C)So Paul warns Timothy not to place a novice in a position of leadership because novices tend to think that if anything good happens through them it's because of them

D)Only someone who has walked with the Lord awhile understands that if anything good happens through him it's not *because* of him, **but rather in spite of him!**

E)Satan enjoys seeing a youthful pastor succeed and get proud;

1)then he can tear down all that has been built up.

Proven his relationships outside of the church V.7

A)A good testimony/reputation w/those outside the church!

Q: How do they speak to the waitress? Tip

B)Co-workers - Work ethic

5 Confirmations to a man's calling:

1)**Man points to himself** – He desires it – knowing full well what it entails

2)**The Holy Spirit points to the man:** The fruit of the Spirit is evident from his life.

3) **Current leadership points to the man:** They bear witness to the calling that the heart that is behind that calling.

4) **Family points to the man:** The family is behind that calling and is ready to support their husband and father in it. Willing to Sacrifice.

5) **The sheep point to the man** –

- They respond to the calling they see on his life.
- Willing to hear and receive instruction and counsel from him.

So those are the qualifications of an Elder - n
Next is Qualifications of a Deacon V.8

⁸ Likewise deacons *must be* reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, ⁹ holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. ¹⁰ But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being *found* blameless.

¹¹ Likewise, *their wives must be* reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling *their* children and their own houses well. ¹³ For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

The first thing you notice in this list is the qualifications are similar

A) What is the difference in the roles

B) Elders is a leadership role - that primarily deals with ministering the Word and ministering to people.

C) Whereas the role of the Deacon is to deal with practical aspects of the church so that the Elders can minister in the Word, in prayer and to people

D) Acts 6 Example: The Problem - Food Distribution

1) Choose 7 men - so that we can continue in the Word and prayer

But even though the role of the Deacon is to minister in practical areas - their calling and qualifications are just as serious

A) Likewise deacons must be reverent- this word in the Greek carries the idea of gravity -

B) Meaning the person called to be a Deacon - understands the weightiness of their calling - Serious and important

Proven in their motives and attachments V.8

C) Not double tongued - A man or even a woman who's yes is their yes and no is their no - you can count on them

Not given to much wine.

A) Interesting the word given here is different than the word - used for the Elder - for the elder - doesn't sit long - dependent

B) For the Deacon the word given means - giving himself to and adds the word much = in great amounts

Bb) An Elder is not to use alcohol or substances as his crutch - or support or coping mechanism - see that a lot

C) Deacon - Speaking more in a general sense - the Deacon can't be someone who is a drunkard -
1) His life is not to be marked by alcohol consumption

D) He is to be clear headed and clear minded

Not greedy for money:

A) Always looking to make a deal or make merchandise of the people of God.

B) He is here to serve the body not to take from the body.

1) Literally have had to ban people from making deals at church

Doctrinally sound: holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.

A) They appreciate the word so much that they want to do whatever they can to make sure that their Pastors have enough time to study

B) Deacons need to know the Word of God - Ministry is always about people

C)Some Deacons so enjoy serving that they neglect the work - both personally and corporately -

D)Like Martha - Distracted with much serving -

1)Agitated at Sister - wrong view of Jesus

E)Neglecting the Key component - Mary Chosen

Proven in their Experience too

¹⁰But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being *found* blameless.

A)Tested - carries the idea of there being a trial period - to see if they are to be found blameless and faithful

B)Here is what it looks like in our context here: Jesus said be faithful in the little things - will be given more responsibility

C)Looking for people who the Lord might be calling to serve as leaders -

1)Are they faithful - when given a task

Not just the men but also their wives and their families

A)Big mistake of Pastors and churches - so desperate for help - we don't look close enough at the wife or the family -

¹¹Likewise, *their wives must be reverent*, understand the gravity of their husbands calling - false accusers - *not slanderers*, always stirring up strife - *temperate*, under control their concerns and emotions = sober *faithful in all things*. Trustworthy in all things

The Deacons Prize: ¹³For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

A)Two things will result when the service of a deacon is done in a rightful way:

B)First, it will create a great sense of appreciation on the part of the congregation –

1)Deacons will have "good standing for themselves."

C)Their ministry will be widely received and appreciated.

But the second thing Paul says is most interesting.

A)He says that deacons earn for themselves, "great confidence in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."

B)The word is really, "boldness."

C)Sense of Confidence in knowing he is being used by God.

1)Richard and Chairs

Paul concludes this section on Church leadership by making 2 wonderful Statements about the Church

¹⁴These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; ¹⁵but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

The Church is the house of God (v. 15a).

A)Family:

B)Not a Hospital

1)Hip surgery couldn't wait to get home!

The pillar and ground of the truth (vv. 15c-16).

A)This is an architectural image which would mean much to Timothy at Ephesus,

B)Ephesus knew pillars!

Temple of Diana(1 of the 7 Wonders of the World) had 127 pillars, everyone a gift of a king, all were marble, some were studded w/jewels & overlaid w/gold.

C)Pillars point to support and display

1)The church is built on the Pillar of Jesus Christ Person and Work - We are to hold up that truth so all men can see it!

Great finishing declaration

¹⁶And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, {God was manifested in the person of Jesus - God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself}

*Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels,
Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world,
Received up in glory.*