

I. A Pastor's Heart - 1 Tim. 3:1

1. "Overseer" - the office of pastor
Rea -KJV uses the word "office" - NIV does not
2. Two other words for this role
 - elder
 - shepherd
3. At Titus 1:5-7 the terms "overseer" and "elder" are interchangeable
 - also compare Acts 20:17-28 and 1 Peter 5:1-3
4. Paul consistently addressed two offices in the church
 - pastor and deacon - Phil. 1:1
- Rea 5. Strictly my take - to make elders into another office is not biblical
 - there were two offices in the church - pastor and deacon
 - here, these offices have their respective qualifications - if "elder" were another role (more administrative, as is often the case in today's church) there would be other qualifications given for it
 - often the office of elder is more about power and control, than servanthood
6. "Aspiring" to be a overseer, bishop (in the KJV) or elder
Rea -just to think about... what about those who do not aspire to be a pastor, rather run from the job? - an example might be Jonah
7. A noble task - not an honor, like a trophy
 - honorable, as in a great work
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. In very concrete terms Paul tells them what to look for in qualifications for a pastor
 - 1 Timothy 3 is often overlooked in terms of qualifications in today's church - why do you think?
 2. There are very few true shepherds out there
 - a shepherd's chief concern is the sheep (the people) - not doctrine, theology, or programs
 - he is concerned about the people in the programs more than the programs
 3. Jesus told Peter - "feed my sheep" - Jesus had a very personal connection with and interest in the sheep

II. A Pastor's Character - 1 Tim. 3:2-7

1. Above reproach (**verse 2**)
Rea -blameless - what happens when a pastor is proven to NOT be above reproach?
- Rea 2. "Faithful to his wife" is the NIV version of the KJV "husband of one wife" (**verses 3-7**)
 - these two are not the same
- Rea - our writer traces the translation to "a one woman man" in the Greek - that is not "faithful to his wife"
3. Views of "husband of one wife" (KJV)
 - some see this as monogamous - but that was true for every believer, not just the leadership
 - some see this as relating to single men - Paul himself was single so this is not

appropriate

- some (more traditionally) have seen this as never having been divorced
- faithful to one's wife - the NIV view

Rea 4. My take:

- Paul sets forward an exemplary man to lead the church - both as a deacon and as a pastor - exemplary means not divorced
- as does the idea of blameless
- as does the idea of leading your home well (verse 4)

5. Temperate - diligent in KJV

6. Self-controlled - sober in KJV

7. Respectable - good behavior in KJV

8. Hospitable - given to hospitality in kJV

9. Able to teach - apt to teach in KJV

Rea -some aptitude in this area

10. Not given to drunkenness - given to wine in KJV (verse 3)

- Timothy's habit was to drink water, not wine

Rea -when he developed stomach trouble he had to be encouraged to drink a little wine

11. Not violent or quarrelsome

12. Not a lover of money

Rea -in the past the pastor's salary was so low one had to almost take a vow of poverty to be in the ministry

13. Manage his own family well (**verses 4-7**)

- children obey him

Rea -the simple idea is leadership/ rule at home proves an aptitude to lead at church - conversely, if you can't lead at home, then you can't lead at church (verse 5)
-do so in a manner worthy of all respect

14. Not a recent convert (verse 6)

Rea -"novice" in KJV

- lest they become conceited

Rea -discuss those who are converted one day and two weeks later they are preaching
-pride is from the devil

Rea -and the office of pastor might lend itself to a man becoming prideful - it feeds a man's ego to have people sit and listen to him pontificate Sunday after Sunday

15. A good reputation from those outside the church (verse 7)

- a respectable life, even if they do not agree with his teachings

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. I do not believe that we hold our pastors to a high enough standard

- if a man can preach, we don't care about his character - our churches have become more about the entertainment from the pulpit rather than the character of the man

2. An exemplary individual

- not a perfect individual

3. Most church members feel it their job, responsibility to point out the flaws of those who preach to them

II. A Deacon's Character - 1 Tim. 3:8-13

- Rea 1. Compare the character qualities recommended for pastors with those recommended for deacons - they are remarkably similar
-“in the same way” (verse 8)
2. “Deacon” - the word means to serve (**verses 8-10**)
3. “Worthy of respect”
4. “Sincere”
- Rea -doesn't just mean - “well he means well”
-means integrity - not one thing at work and another at the house of God
5. Indulging in much wine
-should a lost person see a deacon “indulging” that deacon's testimony is hampered
- Rea -how many “drinks” would it take for a deacon to lose his reputation?
6. Handle money well - not greedy
- Rea -often it's the deacons who say “it costs too much” - “we can't afford that”
7. Understand the “deep truths of the faith” (verse 9)
-with a clear conscience
- Rea -we have been “entrusted” (especially as leaders) with handling the truths of the word of God
8. First be tested (**verse 10**) - proven
- Rea -this does not mean grilled at the deacon ordination council. It means that in their lives they should exhibit Christian virtue before they are made deacons, not afterward.
- Rea -very simply, a new Christian should not be a deacon
-nothing against them - offense to the faith
- Rea 9. Nothing against them:
-does that include how they handle marriage?
-does that include how often they come to church - some are made deacons who rarely come to Sunday School, evening services, business meeting, etc
-if we make these who show little interest in God's church, the keepers of God's church it is no wonder we have sickly churches
-how can we expect church members to come on Sunday nights if the deacons do not?
10. Wives should be the same (**verse 11**)
-the context seems to support the use of “wives” here - as in wives of these deacons
-verses preceding and following this speak of deacons, why would Paul just stick something in here about “women?”
11. Deacon's wives should be
-respectable
- Rea -can you look up to your deacon's wives?
- not malicious talkers
- Rea -not gossips
- temperate
- trustworthy

Rea -they often must handle “secrets”

Rea 12. Deacons ought to be “husbands of one wife” (KJV)

-faithful to wives (NIV)

13. They too ought manage households well

14. To so serve in all of the above earns the deacons the respect of the community -
“excellent standing”

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. As the deacons go, so goes the church

-as the deacon’s wives go, so goes the church

2. My take: - many churches elect deacons by just a popular vote - that is just the
opposite

of these qualifications

3. In our day to even look at 1 Timothy 3:1-13 is rare - why is that so

4. It is assumed that both deacons and pastors be men - not women

-how do we get around that and make women pastors and deacons?

5. These verses are not about church members - such qualifications are not for the rank
and file member of the church. These verses are about leaders. Our churches have a
crisis in leadership. We have changed the qualification to meet the men we have
instead of changing the men to meet the qualifications. Our churches are led by men
who rarely take a stand, do not have any character/ backbone and rarely come to
church. We need a revival at church, but first we need a revival in the leadership at
church.

Jere Phillips/ SS notes for 6-16-19