

Biblical Qualifications for Pastors 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Introduction: In 1 Timothy 3 Paul gave instructions regarding the leadership of the church; as go the leaders, so goes the _____ (cp Hosea 4:9). There are three New Testament terms that refer to the role of the pastor:

- “elder” – emphasizes the need for _____
- “overseer” – designates a position of _____
- “pastor/shepherd” – describes the _____ of the pastor in feeding, leading and caring for God’s flock.

Note three aspects of the office of a pastor.

I. His Call (3:1)

Paul uses two terms to help us understand God’s call to a man to shepherd His flock.

1. **“aspires” – describes the _____ pursuit of ministry**

2. **“desires” – describes the internal _____ for ministry**

Note that Paul adds this is a passion for a “noble task” – ministry _____.

II. His Commission Acts 20:27-32

1. **He is to _____ Christ’s church**

2. **He is to _____ Christ’s church**

- 1) _____ the church from false teaching/teachers (20:29-31; 1 Tim 6:12, 20)
- 2) _____ God’s Word accurately (2 Tim 2:15)
- 3) Preach and teach God’s Word _____ (2 Tim 4:2)

3. **He is to _____ Christ to the Church (1 Cor 11:1; Phil 3:17; Phil 4:9; Heb 13:7)**

III. His Character (3:2-7)

There are five categories in Paul’s list:

1. **His _____ character (3:2-3)**

- “above reproach” – there is nothing in his life that would cause someone to question his _____ leadership.
- “the husband of one wife” – a pastor must have a clear reputation of being totally _____ to his wife.
- “sober-minded” – the sense of exercising _____.
- “self-controlled” – he isn’t frivolous and is serious about _____ things. His mind is governed by the _____ of _____ (Phil 4:8).
- “respectable” – his behavior, lifestyle, and work flow from a _____ mind.
- “not a drunkard” – he should not have the _____ of a drinker.

- “not violent but gentle” – he doesn’t hold a _____ but strives to be a _____.
- “not quarrelsome” – he isn’t always looking for a _____.
- “not a lover of money” – he is not _____.

2. His _____ qualities

- “hospitable” – a pastor’s _____ can be an effective way of ministering to people
- “able to teach” – this is the only qualification that relates to his spiritual gift and function. It is the _____ task of a pastor (4:6, 11, 13, 16)

3. His _____ at home (3:4-5)

There should not be a _____ between how a pastor acts at home and how he acts at church. His home is characterized three ways:

- 1) There is _____ (“manage...well”) – it indicates that he is _____
- 2) There is _____ (“keeping his children submissive”)
- 3) There is _____ (“with all dignity”)

How does a man produce disciplined, orderly children who respect their parents?

- He leads with _____
- He leads by _____
- He provides _____ leadership

4. His spiritual _____ (3:6)

5. His _____ outside the church (3:7; 1 Pet 2:12)

Study Questions:

1. Read 1 Timothy 1:3; 4:1-3, 7; 6:3-5. What do these verses imply about the present leadership at Ephesus that caused Paul to list the qualifications for pastors in chapter 3?
2. Consider the saying, “As goes the pastor, so goes the church.” How does that apply in both a negative sense and in a positive sense?
3. When you reflect on your own spiritual journey, what church leader had a significant impact on your spiritual life? Have you ever been hurt by a church leader?
4. Make a list of questions that the search team and church membership should ask a pastoral candidate based upon the qualifications in 1 Timothy 3:1-7.
5. Make a prayer list from this passage that will equip the church to pray for their pastor & elders.