

We Are the Living Picture of God - 1 Timothy

Christ Oversees His Church by Elders - 1Tim. 3:1-7

Introduction: The Church to maintain a picture-like quality of her God Savior. Leadership is part of God's design for order, beauty in His Church. Chapt. 3 is about shepherds/elders and then about servers/deacons who are not so much externally impressive, but who are internally deep.

I. Terms used in this passage, in scripture for "elder"

episkopais

presbuteros

One who guards, watches over, leads, who shepherds

II. God has devised a good office, thus it is good that men aspire to it vs.1

essential for men at our church to truly desire this work, a noble task

III. The qualities of a man who aspires to the role of elder vs 2-7

A. His reputation v. 2

B. His marriage (if he is a married man) v.2

at heart, he is a one woman man - contentment Prov. 5

C. He is sober-minded, temperate, circumspect v. 2

a man seen as one who is not external/senses oriented. Rather internally driven, senses driven by "new heart" affections.

D. Self-controlled v.2

internal compass that hears truth, not self that speaks loudly

E. Respectable – virtuous v.2

internal moral excellence that shows itself outwardly in conduct

F. Hospitable - a love of strangers v. 2

Romans 12:13

G. Able to teach v.2

Titus 1:9

H. Not addicted to wine/drunkenness v. 3

I. Not violent or pugnacious v 3

J. Gentle, peaceable v. 3

1 Corinthians 6:7,

2Timothy 2:24-25

K. Free from the love of money v. 3

1 Timothy 6:9-10

the calling to shepherd, pastor is unique—depends on church

L. One who is managing his own household well vs. 4-5

Greek *oikos* house - church & for home

M. He is mature, not a recent convert v. 6

not filled-up with himself

N. His reputation with those outside the church vs. 7

Application:

We have enough here, to determine whether a man is fit for this office.

But it is not easy to arrive at!

The non-believing world does not mirror these qualities. We need not worry about this. Bearing resemblance to Jesus is not an immediate winner.

No one can even begin to have qualities like this, unless there has been the new birth—unless there has been a radical yielding, giving up to God.

Where are you with God? Do you know God as your Savior?

1Timothy 3:1-7 ESV

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. ²Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? ⁶He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.