

*Paul's Letter to
the Disciple*



I Timothy

The Overseers

1 Tim. 3:1-7

1. What Is An *Overseer*?
2. Who Should Be An *Overseer*?
3. What Should An *Overseer* Look Like?



1. What Is An *Overseer*?

- *Overseer = Elder = Bishop = Pastor*
 - See 5:17; Acts 20:17, 28; Eph. 4:11; Titus 1:5, 7; 1 Pet. 5:1-2
- *One who looks after* (see Acts 20:28-32)
 - Guard the flock; shepherd the church
 - Placed by the Holy Spirit
 - Use *the word of His grace* (to build up)



1. What Is An *Overseer*?

• From *Biblical Eldership*:

“According to the New Testament, elders lead the church, teach and preach the Word, protect the church from false teachers, exhort and admonish the saints in sound doctrine, visit the sick and pray, and judge doctrinal issues.” (Alexander Strauch)



2. Who Should Be An *Overseer*?

- God calls (cf. Acts 20:28)
 - The Holy Spirit prompts / equips
- The man answers (1 Tim. 3:1)
 - *Aspire – to stretch out the hand*
 - *Not under compulsion* (1 Pet. 5:2)
- Church recognizes / confirms (1 Tim. 3:2-7)
 - Do others see the call / qualities?



3. What Should An *Overseer* Look Like?

- His Personal Life
- His Public Life
- His Private Life



His Personal Life

- *Above reproach*
 - *Blameless or unblameable*
 - It does NOT mean perfect
 - No obvious character defects
 - Not dominated by sin / lusts
 - When he sins, he deals with it properly
 - The rest of the list explains this one



His Personal Life

- *Of one wife a husband*

1. *Must be married?*

2. *Cannot be remarried (divorce, death)?*

3. Marital fidelity (see 5:9)

- “As Christ loved the church” (Eph. 5:25-33)

- Points to men as leaders



His Personal Life

- *Temperate – sober*

- In control; clear-headed; calm

- Circumspect, watchful (1 Thess. 5:6, 8)

- *Prudent – self-controlled* (see 2:9, 15)

- Control over passions and desires

- Sound judgment; wise discretion; curbing of desires and impulses



His Personal Life

- *Respectable – orderly* (see 2:9)
 - *Proper*; well-arranged; seemly
 - Outward expression of inward control
- *Free from the love of money* (see 6:5-10)
 - Money is a tool, not a goal (6:17-19)
 - Contrast to false teachers (6:5; Titus 1:11; 2 Pet. 2:1-3, 14-15)



His Personal Life

- *Not a new convert* (6)

1. Maturity

- *Track record* (cf. Acts 14:21-23): godliness; knowledge (1 Tim. 1:7); self-control

2. Humility

- Too much too soon -> conceit (pride)
- God opposes the proud (James 4:6-7)



His Public Life

- *Hospitable – love for strangers*
 - Generous, open to guests
 - Expected of all believers (1 Pet. 4:9)
- *Able to teach* (see 1:10b-11)
 - Spiritual gift (Eph. 4:11; 1 Pet. 4:10-11)
 - Apostolic truth (2 Tim. 2:2; Heb. 2:3-4)
 - See 1 Tim. 1:3; 3:15; 4:11-16; 5:17; 6:2



His Public Life

- *Not addicted to wine*
 - Incessant use/abuse; *an alcoholic*
 - Quarrelsome/violent temper and behavior
- *Or pugnacious – a striker*
 - Contentious, quarrelsome, itching to fight
 - Verbal as well as physical



His Public Life

- *But gentle – forbearing* (Phil. 4:5)
 - Not pressing rights (cf. 1 Cor. 6:7)
- *Peaceable – without controversy*
 - See Titus 3:1-2; James 3:17
- *Good reputation with those outside*
 - Satan's ploy: discredit the messenger to discredit the message



His Private Life

- *manages his own household well*
- The proving ground!
 - *Manage – rule (5:17), lead (Rom. 12:8)*
 - *Keeping his children under control*
 - Does he know how to disciple? Lead?
Encourage? Teach? Admonish?
 - Faithful with little -> given more



Some Observations

- Reflections of God's character
 - *Be imitators of God* (Eph. 5:1)
 - *New Self / Christ-likeness* (Eph. 4:21-24)
 - Requires sound doctrine / theology
- Focus on *self-control / self-mastery*
 - Living by the truth, not passions/lusts
- Resembles *fruit of the Spirit* (Gal. 5:22-23)



So What?

- Not just for a few select men!
 - Elders are examples (1 Pet. 5:3)
 - God's desire for all His children (Eph. 5:1)
 - Is God bringing one of these to mind?
- We need more elders!
 - Is God prompting you?



Communion

- Jesus has made this possible
 - In Him we died to sin
 - In Him we were raised to *new life*
- The *Lord's Supper* is a reminder of what He has done for us & what He wants to do in us

