

*Preach the word! Be ready
in season and out of
season.*

1 Timothy 3

2022-2023

Overseer Bishop Elder Shepherd

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- ▶ 1 Tim 3:1 Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an **overseer (episcopos)** desires a noble task.
- ▶ Titus 1:5-7 An **elder (presbyterous)** must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an **overseer (episcopos)** manages God's household, he must be blameless
- ▶ Overseer (episcopos) and Elder (presbyterous) are the same role

Overseer Bishop Elder Shepherd

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- ▶ John Piper – Biblical Eldership
 - ▶ The English term "bishop" means overseer and is sometimes used to translate the Greek word "*episcopos*" which means "one who over (*epi*) sees (*scopos*)".
- ▶ For a **bishop (*episcopos*)** must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,... NKJV
- ▶ So Overseer, Bishop, and Elder are used to describe the same role

Overseer Bishop Elder Shepherd

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- ▶ 1 Peter 5:1-2 To the **elders (presbyterous)** among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be **shepherds** (poimanate) of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them ...
- ▶ Elders and Shepherds are referring to the same people
- ▶ At Adams Blvd, your leaders prefer the term **Shepherd**

- ▶ Ephesians 4:11-12 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the **pastors** and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...
- ▶ John Piper states “It (pastor) is a functional description of the role of elder stressing the care and feeding of the church as God’s flock, just as “bishop/overseer” is a functional description of the role of elder stressing the governing or oversight of the church.

- ▶ Common usage of the term “pastor” across various Christian traditions refer to their preaching minister as their Pastor. There are broad differences in how the leadership of those churches are structured.
- ▶ Piper (and many other commentators) agree “We may conclude therefore that “pastor” and “elder” and “bishop/overseer” refer in the New Testament to the same office.

Qualifications of Shepherds

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- ▶ According to 1 Timothy 3, a shepherd should be
 - ▶ Above reproach
 - ▶ Faithful to his wife (NKJV Husband of one wife)
 - ▶ Temperate
 - ▶ Self-controlled
 - ▶ Respectable
 - ▶ Hospitable
 - ▶ Able to teach
 - ▶ Not given to drunkenness

Qualifications of Shepherds

- ▶ According to 1 Timothy 3, shepherds are to be
 - ▶ Not violent but gentle
 - ▶ Not quarrelsome
 - ▶ Not a lover of money
 - ▶ Manage his family well
 - ▶ See that his children obey him
 - ▶ Do so in a manner worthy of full respect
 - ▶ Must not be a recent convert
 - ▶ Have a good reputation with outsiders

- ▶ Read Titus 1:5-9
- ▶ Titus was instructed to appoint elders in every town – relatively new congregations, just getting started
- ▶ No details are given for what process is to be used to select or affirm shepherds in established churches

Qualifications of Shepherds

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- ▶ Titus 1 adds to the qualifications in Timothy
 - ▶ A man whose children believe
 - ▶ AND are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient
 - ▶ Not overbearing
 - ▶ Not quick tempered
 - ▶ Not pursuing dishonest gain

Qualifications of Shepherds

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- ▶ Titus 1 adds he must...
 - ▶ Love what is good
 - ▶ Be upright, holy, and disciplined
 - ▶ Hold firmly to the true message so that
 - ▶ He can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it

Qualifications of Shepherds

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- ▶ It helps if he can
 - ▶ Herd cats
 - ▶ Juggle chain saws
 - ▶ Walk on water

Additional Scriptures

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► 1 Peter 5:1-6 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them — not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not Lord it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Cont...

Additional Scriptures

- ▶ 1 Peter 5:1-6 cont
- ▶ In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.”

Additional Scriptures

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- ▶ Hebrews 13:7 “Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.”
- ▶ Hebrews 13:17 “Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.”

Additional Scriptures

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- ▶ Acts 20:28-31 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.
- ▶ I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock.
- ▶ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.
- ▶ So be on your guard! ...

- ▶ **8** In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain.
- ▶ **9** They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.
- ▶ **10** They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.
- ▶ **11** In the same way, the women (or wives) are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.
- ▶ **12** A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well.
- ▶ **13** Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

Qualifications of Deacons

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- ▶ Worthy of respect
- ▶ Sincere
- ▶ Not indulging in much wine
- ▶ Not pursuing dishonest gain
- ▶ Hold to the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience
- ▶ Must be tested first

Qualifications of Deacons

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- ▶ In the same way, the women... (deaconesses and / or wives of deacons)
 - ▶ Worthy of respect
 - ▶ Not malicious talkers
 - ▶ Temperate
 - ▶ Trustworthy in everything

Qualifications of Deacons

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- ▶ Faithful to his wife
- ▶ Manage his children and household well

Reasons for Paul's Instructions

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- ▶ 14 Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that,
- ▶ 15 if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

Reasons for Paul's Instructions

22

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The mystery from which true godliness springs...

- ▶ **16** Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great: He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.