

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit**  
**Order in the Church, Part 2**  
**1 Timothy 3**

Last time...Paul gave pastoral counsel to Timothy regarding order in the Church

Order in the Church, Part 1

- upward (Ch 2:1-8)
- within
  - women (Ch 2:9-15)

This time...Order in the Church, Part 2

- within, continued
  - bishops (Ch 3:1-7)
  - deacons (Ch 3:8-13)

Eph 4:11-15a

Jesus gifted His Church with those upon whom He places these callings  
Additionally, these men need other spiritual men to come alongside them to help minister to the Church

Men like the ones He gave to Moses

Ex 18:13-26

Men with characteristics presented here in 1 Timothy 3

- “bishop” = *episkope* or *episkopos* = overseer or superintendent
- “deacon” = *diakonos* = attendant or waiter

Note: The NT is not clear about Church governance structures

The NT is clear that the Head of the Body is Jesus Christ and we are all members of His Body

Therefore, obviously, those called to serve the Head and the Body are to be Christ-like, being Spirit-led and in one accord with the Head

Because

- Jesus is the Bishop (*episkopos*) of our souls  
1 Peter 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls
- the Church is
  - an organism, not an organization
  - to be orderly, not disorderly

Spiritual men called to come alongside the pastor to help minister to the Church...

v1 This is a trustworthy saying, if a man desire...it is in his heart to stretch himself in the service to the Lord

(the value of a rubber band is seen/known when it is stretched)

the office of a bishop...overseer/superintendent to guide others in their walks with the Lord (by pointing them to Jesus) to tend to the spiritual needs of people in the Church

Servants as Jesus taught

Mark 10:42-43

Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:

he desires a good work...a virtuous and worthy labor of love

And now, in v2-7, a rather extensive list of the attributes of a qualified overseer... and why such a man MUST be

- Christ-like
- Spirit-led
- in one accord with the Head

v2 blameless..."no proven charges" (of false accusations, which flow freely from the children of the devil)

the husband of one wife...the cultural context is polygamy was acceptable in the Greek/Roman culture

Therefore, NOT like the world in this most important of all human relationships  
Nor having only one wife at a time but having a revolving door of wives...  
like Prince Andrew had a revolving door of women

vigilant...circumspect (guarded inwardly) and watchful (for the protection of others)

sober...self-controlled (a fruit of the Spirit)

of good behavior...orderly, modest, humble

given to hospitality...caring for and welcoming of others

apt to teach...inclined/disposed to teaching others

v3 not given to wine...not ruled by wine, not always having to have a glass of wine nearby  
Not speaking of teetotaling abstinence but of habitual indulgence

Is 28:7 But they (Ephraim, NK) also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine (given to it), they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble *in* judgment.

Too much wine clouds and “alters” the mind  
Alcohol, drugs, every form of physical “high”/intoxication do NOT make a person wiser and more intelligent...  
but make people stupid, so they err in judgment

Prov 23:29-32

Prov 20:1

A leader in the Church (qualified only to the degree he follows Jesus)  
needs a clear mind not corrupted by a counterfeit joy

Eph 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit

Rom 13:13a Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness

In context of the times, judiciously as medicinal was another matter

1 Tim 5:23 given unclean water conditions in many places, wine was mixed in drinking water to kill the “bugs” and aid digestion

no striker...not quarrelsome and difficult to get along with,  
not harsh or abusive in word or deed

not greedy of money...does not have an “evil eye” but is generous

patient...gentle, meek, even-keeled, not given to hissy fits or temper tantrums

not a brawler...peaceable, not looking for a fight

not covetous...of the things of the world that stay in and go the way of the world

v4-5    one that rules well his house...serious about the position given to him by God in his family – to lead them as the Good Shepherd leads him  
i.e. his family relationships are orderly

Does that mean he is a perfect husband and father?

Of course not...we all fall short of perfection

Phil 3:12-14    Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Does that mean his children are perfect, never disobeying their parents and

“pushing the envelope” of the boundaries set for their safety?

Of course not...no kids are perfect and all kids are writing their testimony!

But he and his family are (albeit imperfectly) guided by the Spirit of God and governed by the Word of God as

- God is faithful to complete the good work He has started in them
- he and they abide in Christ and continue in the way of sanctification

Otherwise, how can he possibly serve in a position of leadership in the house of God?

v6        not a novice...not a new, “wet behind the ears” babe-in-Christ, no matter how accomplished he may be in the world of business, etc, but a seasoned, spiritually mature elder

Because an overseer in the Church is a target of Satan

Spiritual attacks are frequent and the overseer must know how to fight, how to be a good soldier in the Lord’s army

Spiritually immature novices put into a position of leadership may fall...

by getting all puffed up and filled with themselves for holding a position of leadership (having a title) in the Church

The immature covet and compete for “titles” for themselves

The mature desire a function, not a title, to help others

- v7 have a good report of them which are without...known in the community-at-large as
- a man of integrity and honesty
  - having a good reputation...is a good witness of Jesus Christ
  - not rude and crude but honorable
  - is good to his word
  - pays his bills on time and in full...a customer a healthy business wants
  - pays their taxes
  - an all-around upstanding guy

Also men to come alongside and serve in the Church – deacons, another function vs title

- v8 Likewise deacons...as overseers are, so are to be “attendants/waiters”

Acts 6:1-7

Servants to tend to the practical needs of the people in the Church

grave...honorable

not double-tongued...not speaking out of both sides of their mouths to be a man-pleaser  
by saying one thing to this person and another thing to another person, but  
speaking the truth in love to all persons

not given to much wine...with moderation and medicinally if appropriate

not greedy of filthy lucre...money, the love of which is the root of all evil

- v9 holding the mystery of the faith...the Gospel of Christ/Grace, the power of God unto  
salvation for whoever believes, the truths of God...  
in a clean conscience, God’s morality of right and wrong  
(vs worldly morality or philosophy)

- v10 first be proved...must be tested and observed, “on probation” if you will, to see if they  
will be found blameless and faithful, truly seeking to serve the Lord and others as  
a functioning servant or seeking a title and position for themselves

1 Tim 5:22a

- v11 their wives...if they are called to be married vs called to be single
- grave...honorable
  - not slanderers...not spokeswomen for the devil, mischievously stirring up trouble
  - sober...circumspect (guarded inwardly) and watchful (of others)
  - faithful in all things...trustworthy to act in the best interest of others

v12 the husbands of one wife...ala the overseers

ruling their families well...ala the overseers

v13 For the deacons as with for the overseers...v1

- being stretched in their walks with the Lord for the good of others
- a way to live their faith, not just speak it
- serving the Church joyfully in a labor of love...of the Lord and His people

v14 Was it Paul's intention, after his mission of mercy in Jerusalem, to go to Ephesus, to see and help Timothy, on his way to Rome?

v15 But if he gets delayed...his itinerary is established by the Lord's will, not his or Satan's

1 Thes 2:18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

Acts 16:6-7 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

Rom 15:22 For which cause also I have been much hindered from coming to you.

What was the Lord's will for Paul regarding going to Rome?

Acts 23:11 And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said,  
*Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.*

Acts 25:11 For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die: but if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I appeal unto Caesar.

Acts 27:22-25 And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of *any man's* life among you, but of the ship. For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

As Christ's witness and prisoner, not stopping off as a freeman in Ephesus

Paul is sending these inspired instructions about order in the Church with Timothy via this letter so that his son in the faith would know...therefore teach the church in Ephesus...how God's children are to behave in

- the house of God
- the church of the Living God
- the pillar/support/witness and ground/basis of truth

The Church is the building of God, built on the Sure Foundation of Jesus Christ

1 Cor 3:9-11

Is 28:16      Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner *stone*, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste (but will be ready).

The counsels of the Builder of the Church are faithfulness and truth (Is 25:1)

The Church proclaims the Truth to the world...the Truth that

- changes not
- does not compromise
- does not evolve to agree with any other worldview/social agenda
- cannot fail
- will stand forever, long after the world is burned up with fervent heat

As blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life (Phil 12:15-16a),

the Church	<u>is</u>	<u>is not</u>
	a people	a building
	organism	organization
	a single Body	disparate denominations or brands
	a spiritual work of Jesus	social movement of man
	reflection of Jesus Christ	reflection of the world
	house of God	a den of thieves and demons

According to the dictated letters of Jesus Christ to the Apostle John (Rev 2-3), the Church (in the biggest sense of the word) will be

- thrown into great tribulations (Thyatira)
- blotted out of the Lamb's Book of Life (Sardis)
- vomited (Laodicea)
- or
- kept from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world and given an open door into the kingdom of heaven (Philadelphia)

Woe!

Wow!

The Church is in desperate need of “heartburn”,

Luke 24:32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us,  
while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the  
scriptures?

the wonderful effects of which are:

- followers of Jesus listening today and every day as intently as those  
2 disciples were that day
- pastors willing to put the time and effort into 2 Tim 2:15
- pastors feeding God’s flocks with knowledge and understanding according to  
the heart of God (Jer 3:15), feeding them the entire counsel of God  
(Acts 20:27)
- people searching Scripture to see if what their pastors are teaching is true  
(Acts 17:11)

Heartburn could cure much of what ails the Church today, as the Lord Himself sees it

- idolatrous religion
- dead spirituality
- Biblical lukewarm-ness

Heartburn would expose the errors of

- faithless human reasoning/humanism
- preconceived ideas
- the many winds of the doctrines of man and demons
- the fables of ear-ticklers
- denominational dogmas that divide vs unify

Heartburn would serve to teach us how to behave ourselves in the house of God!

v16 And the pillar/witness and ground/basis of truth is the Gospel, Good News from heaven!  
What is godliness revealed by God in His Word?  
Jesus Christ

God (the Son, Jesus Christ)

- was manifest in the flesh...John 1:1, 14
- justified/innocent/pure in the Spirit...without sin, an acceptable  
sacrifice
- seen of angels...after His resurrection (Luke 24:23, John 20:12)
- preached unto the Gentiles...Peter, then Paul
- believed on in the world...Gospel spoken and believed (John 20:29)
- received up unto glory...Ascension



## Application/Exhortation

The Church needs spiritual men who are like Christ...faithfully living before God and man with the mind of Christ

- pastors/teachers who are faithful to the Word of God
- faithful overseers (1 Peter 5:1-4) for spiritual needs of people
- faithful deacons (Mark 6:34-44) for practical needs of people

Ministry is a labor of love – love for the Lord and love for others

Ministry is a severe test of faithfulness...

Matt 16:24    **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**

2 Cor 11:28    Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

1 Cor 15:58    Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

There are good times and bad times

Phil 4:12-13    I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Ministry demands resolute endurance and perseverance to finish well the course

So many falter...which is why

- the pastors/overseers/deacons are to point the sheep of God's flock to Jesus Christ
- the people are to know and follow the voice of their Good Shepherd

Because Jesus, the Bishop of our souls, never falters!!!