

PMBC Women's Sunday School Class

Lesson: Traits Of A Godly Leader

1 Timothy 3:1-16

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2/18/24

Overview: In chapters 1, 2, and 3, Paul has laid out some broad concepts which Timothy needs to enforce in his congregation. This chapter specifically deals with the qualifications for leaders, including both elders and deacons. The next chapters will transition to Paul's warnings about certain dangers lurking around the Christian church.

Objectives:

- Qualifications of Overseers (1 Timothy 3:1-4)
- A Good Testimony (1 Timothy 3:5-7)
- Qualifications of Deacons (1 Timothy 3:8-12)
- The Great Mystery (1 Timothy 3:13-16)
- Summary

Discussion Questions:

Qualification of Overseers

1. If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a _____ work.

2. What are the seven positive qualities that Paul says the person seeking this position need to have?

3. What are the five negative qualities that they need to avoid?

A Good Testimony

4. Paul specifies that bishop/elders cannot be what? (vs.6)
Explain why Paul thought this was important.

5. *In addition to spiritual maturity and healthy relationships, it was essential that prospective leaders had a _____, or _____, with those outside the church. Why?*

Qualifications of Deacons

6. *What is the one positive quality that deacons must possess?*

7. *What three negative qualities are they to avoid?*

8. *How do these compare to the qualifications for bishops listed in verses 2-4?*

9. *What qualifications did Paul say their wives must have?*

The Great Mystery

10. Paul calls the church "the _____ of the _____ God."

11. What urgency did Paul feel in writing these instructions? (vs.14-15)

12. Describe the Great Mystery (vs.16)

Summary

First Timothy chapter 3 expresses requirements for two different levels of church leadership. The first are "elders" or "overseers." These men are to be experienced Christians, respectable, capable teachers, with a good reputation and a well-ordered family life. The second group are 'servants,' or "deacons," who share many of the same expectations. Unlike elders, however, deacons are not necessarily called on to teach, and they are expected to be 'tested' prior to taking on their role.