

ARTICLE V CHURCH LEADERSHIP

SECTION TWO - Qualifications of Leaders

The first task of choosing godly leaders is not to look at their skill level but at their character. Because leadership is influence, *how* leaders *live* is just as important as *where* and *how* leaders *lead*. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 11:1, “*Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.*” Church leaders are to be *Christlike* leaders. In addition to the model of C.H.R.I.S.T. set out earlier in this document, leaders in Church of the Open Door are to reflect the specific criteria Paul wrote for church leaders in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

“Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.”
1 Timothy 3:3-13

“An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless--not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.”
-Titus 1:6-9

1. **Above Reproach:** Lives must be pure; presenting no patterns of living that would warrant accusations of violating Scriptural morals.
2. **Husband of One Wife:** If married, must be a devoted, faithful spouse.
3. **Temperate:** Must be sensible, wise, balanced in judgment, not given to quick, superficial decisions based on immature thinking.
4. **Self-controlled:** Must be balanced in their stewardship and appetites, enslaved to nothing, free from excesses.
5. **Respectable:** Must demonstrate a well-ordered life and good behavior that earns the respect of others.

6. **Hospitable:** Must be unselfish with their personal resources and possessions. Must "love the stranger" and be willing to share freely with them.
7. **Able to Teach:** Must be able to communicate the truth of God and exhort sound doctrine in a non-argumentative way. (2 Tim. 4:2; 2:24)
8. **Not Addicted to Wine:** Must be free from destructive addictions, pursuing freedom from all addictions and willing to limit their liberty for the sake of others.
9. **Not Quick-Tempered:** Must be gentle and characterized by forbearance and tenderness; not having a quick, violent temper. Able to exercise control and patience in difficult situations.
10. **Uncontentious:** Must not be given to quarrelling or selfish argumentation.
11. **Free From the Love of Money:** Must not be stingy, greedy or out for dishonest monetary gain. They should not be pre-occupied with amassing material things, but rather should be a model of giving.
12. **Manage Own Family:** Must have a well-ordered household and a healthy family life.
13. **Not a New Convert:** Must not be a new believer. They must have been Christians long enough to demonstrate the reality of their conversion and the depth of their spirituality.
14. **Person of Integrity:** Must be well respected by unbelievers and have a good reputation in workplace, community and neighborhood. Must be free from hypocrisy. There must be a consistency with what he/she says and does.
15. **Not Self-willed:** Must not be stubborn, insensitive or prone to force opinions on others. Must be more interested in service than self-interests.
16. **Loves What is Good:** Must desire the will of God in every decision, regardless of difficulty and perceived consequences.
17. **Just:** Must be fair and impartial. Their judgments must be based on Scriptural principle.
18. **Holy:** Must be walking in obedience, yielding themselves continually to the Holy Spirit. While seeking to separate themselves from sin, they must be quick to confess it and seek to maintain a pure heart.
19. **Disciplined:** Must be characterized by self-discipline and self-restraint, shaping their lives through the practice of the disciplines of the Christian life: prayer, Bible study, fasting, etc.
20. **Hold Firmly to the Word of God:** Must be stable in the faith, obedient to the Word of God, diligent in the application of the Word to his/her life, able to defend sound doctrine and capable to use the Word to encourage others.