

“Leading by Example”

1 Timothy 3:1-7

12/5/20

OUTLINE

WELCOME:

(1 minute)

INTRO:

(3 minutes)

- **Illustration:** Defining a good leader
 - **Q:** What makes a good leader?
 - Charismatic personality...?
 - Go-getter attitude...?
 - Friendly demeanor...?
 - **A:** Bible says **GODLY CHARACTER!**
 - (For those called to lead the church)

RECAP & CONTEXT:

(2 minutes)

- **Where we started:** Timothy to lead Church of Ephesus
 - Called to **PROCLAIM** the Gospel
 - Called to **GUARD** the Gospel
 - Called to **CELEBRATE** the Gospel
 - Called to **FIGHT** for the Gospel
- **Where we are going** (purpose for letter): Book Overview
 - Roles/function of men & women
 - Choosing Leadership (Qualifications)
 - Reality of Spiritual Warfare

- ****How Church is to point others towards Jesus****
- **Where we are now: Current Situation**
 - Addressing the roles w/in local church
 - (1) Overseers
 - (2) Deacons
 - (3) Church body
 - Providing qualifications for each role
 - Defining what each role's function is
 - Reiterating Christ as the ultimate hope
- **Sermon Title: "Leading by Example"**

BIG IDEA:

(1 minute)

- **Big Idea: Church Leadership requires Christ-like character**
 - Qualifications & standards exist and have been given by God for those leading the church b/c the call to lead God's people is both noble and weighty.

PRAY:

(1 minute)

READ:

(1 minute)

- **Text: 1 Timothy 3:1-7**

This saying is trustworthy: "If anyone aspires to be an overseer, he desires a noble work." ² An overseer, therefore, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, self-controlled, sensible, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not an excessive drinker, not a bully but gentle, not quarrelsome, not greedy. ⁴ He must manage his own household competently and have his children under control with all dignity. ⁵ (If anyone does not know how to

manage his own household, how will he take care of God's church?) ⁶ He must not be a new convert, or he might become conceited and incur the same condemnation as the devil. ⁷ Furthermore, he must have a good reputation among outsiders, so that he does not fall into disgrace and the devil's trap.

PREVIEW:

(1 minute)

• Main Points:

- 1 – **Leading God's people is a noble task** (v.1)
- 2 – **Leadership requires specific qualities** (v.2-7)
- 3 – **Leaders must keep their eyes on Jesus** (v.6-7)

PILLAR 1: **Leading God's people is a noble task**

(15 minutes)

(v.1)

- Paul affirms what he is about to say is "trustworthy"
 - Paul repeatedly uses "trustworthy" in Pastoral Epistles
 - Does so to contrast his directions from False Teachers
 - Signifies importance of what he is about to say
- Defining the term "Overseer"
 - Words used synonymously with "Overseer":
 - Bishop
 - Elder
 - Pastor
 - Denominations differ on terms, but "Overseer" is all encompassing
 - ****"Overseer" highlights the *FUNCTION* (action + role)**

- **ILLUSTRATION:** Verb Commercials
 - 1990-2000s commercial
 - “Verb, it’s what you do.”
- Functions of an Overseer
 - **Q:** What are the functions of an Overseer?
 - **A:** Requires taking responsibility for others
 - **A:** Protector, Caregiver, Guardian, **LEADER**
 - **CONTEXT:** Ephesians understood Overseer role
 - Paul had addressed Ephesian Elders before and outlined their **FUNCTION**
 - **Acts 20:28** → Paul to Ephesian Elders
 - Local church

²⁸ Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood.

- Paul appointed Ephesian Elders to:
 - Guard
 - Lead
 - Shepherd
 - Oversee (all encompassing)
 - **1 Peter 2:25** → **Jesus as ultimate Overseer**
 - Whole Church

²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but you have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

- Why an Overseer is “a noble work”? (explained)
 - **Q:** Why is serving as an Overseer “a noble work”?
 - **A #1:** It’s a resemblance of Jesus’ earthly ministry!
 - ****The work of an Overseer is NOT just about “doing,” but “being”!**
 - It requires living as an example to the C&W
 - It requires shepherding sheep + fighting wolves
 - Requires both **ACTION** and **ATTITUDE**
 - **ILLUSTRATION:** Remember the Titans
 - “Nobody plays, yourself included”
 - “I’m going to play for me and get mine”
 - “Attitude reflects leadership, Captain”
 - **A #2:** It is a God-given call!
 - Holy Spirit appoints (calls) men to do it!
 - **Acts 20:28** → Paul to Ephesian Elders

²⁸ Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood.
 - ****Church leadership is not a right, but a privilege****
- **APPLICATION:**
 - **Q:** Do you, Christian man, aspire to be an Overseer?
 - **Q:** Do you know that desiring this work is noble?

- **Q:** Do you understand the gravity and weightiness of this serious, but noble call?

PILLAR 2: Leadership requires specific qualities
(v.2)

(15 minutes)

- Must be qualified to be an Overseer
 - To be “**qualified**” means you possess certain **qualities**
 - Paul outlines **16** qualities
 - 1. Above Reproach
 - Make right choice to avoid doubt
 - **EXAMPLE:** The Billy Graham rule
 - 2. Husband to one wife
 - **CONTEXT:** Needed to be said
 - **HOW:** physical + emotional
 - 3. Self-controlled
 - n/a
 - 4. Sensible
 - **TRANSLATION(s):** “Non-violent”
 - 5. Respectable
 - How you carry yourself
 - Decisions you make
 - 6. Hospitable
 - Caring & welcoming
 - Sacrificial giving
 - 7. Able to teach

- Ability to handle God's Word well
- **SETTING:** 1v1 or large group

(v.3)

- 8. Not an excessive drinker
 - **TRANSLATION(s):** Drunkard
 - Exhibit Christ-like Character
- 9. Not a bully
 - **READ:** 2 Timothy 2:24 (below)

24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

- 10. (but) Gentle
 - Revealing a Christ-like response
- 11. Not quarrelsome
 - Not desiring to fight or argue
 - Physical OR Verbal
- 12. Not greedy
 - Not living for themselves (selfish)
 - In contrast → Eyes set on Jesus

(v.4)

- 13. Manage household competently
 - Leadership from the front
 - Must love his family how Christ loves the Church
- 14. Have children under control w/ all dignity

- (v.5) → *(Rhetorical question to make point)*
- Children are a representation of parents
- **BUT** → Understand, no one is perfect

(v.6)

- 15. Not a new convert
 - Cannot have recently come to faith
 - *(will discuss why later)*

(v.7)

- 16. A good reputation among outsiders
 - Non-Christians respect you
 - Sign of personal character
 - *(will discuss why later)*

- **ILLUSTRATION:** Wanted to be like Tim Tebow
 - In HS I played football & was a Christian
 - Desired to be like Tebow on/off the field
 - Bought jersey & mimicked throwing style
 - **BUT** → that didn't change me from the inside out and make me an NFL QB
 - **BECAUSE** → ****I did not have the same athletic QUALITIES****
- **CONTEXT:** Imagine how Timothy felt reading this letter
 - Timothy was a young man

- He was sent by Paul to lead Ephesus
- Reminds Timothy of his:
 - Calling
 - Walk
 - Witness
- Reminds Ephesian Elders of the same
- Reminds the Church of:
 - How to choose leaders
 - How they are to respond (v.14-16)
- Caused Timothy to reflect on life (actions, choices, attitude)
- ****These characteristics are qualifications for Overseers, BUT applicable for every Christian!****
- **APPLICATION:**
 - **Q:** Do you see signs of these characteristics in your life?
 - **Q:** More importantly, do OTHERS see this in your life?
 - **Q:** ******Like my time in HS wanting to be like Tim Tebow, how many of us are claiming to be like Jesus b/c we put on a Jesus jersey when we attend church, BUT our lives do not reveal His qualities in us? ******

PILLAR 3: Leaders must keep their eyes on Jesus

(8 minutes)

(v.6)

- Paul gives 2 warnings → references the devil twice

- Connects potential downfalls of Overseers to the devil

- (v.6) #15 = Not a new convert

“He must not be a new convert, or he might become conceited AND incur the same condemnation as the devil”

- Points to the sin of **PRIDE**
- Parallels Satan’s prideful sin/fall to what could be for those who take eyes off Christ

v.7)

- (v.7) #16 = A good reputation among outsiders

“Furthermore, he must have a good reputation among outsiders, so that he does not fall into disgrace & the devil’s trap.”

- An Overseer is called to BE a leader at all times
- CHARACTER + WITNESS matters
- Devil’s Trap = Desire to distract & destroy
- 1 Peter 5:8 → Strong warning

⁸ Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.

- Paul gives warning to help Church & Overseers avoid downfall

- **FIRST** → For sake of the Gospel
- **SECOND** → For the sake of their soul

- ****This is why God-given qualifications listed are critical!****

- **ILLUSTRATION:** Only Doctors should conduct surgery
 - Do **NOT** want just anyone operating on you
 - Surgery requires a skilled doctor
 - Doctors go to school & prove they can do job
 - You will die from malpractice w/o doctor
- **APPLICATION:**
 - **Q:** What are your eyes/heart set on?
 - **Q:** Are you pursuing a status or position because you want to be thought of as important, or are you listening for God's call and living out what you say you believe?
 - **A:** ******An Overseer within the local church is not a status someone achieves, but a lived-out calling because of who they already are ******
 - God's qualifications are the only ones that matter
 - Worldliness vs Godliness
 - **REITERATE BIG IDEA:** → ****This is why Church Leadership requires Christ-like character!****

REITERATE MAIN POINTS:

(1 minute)

- **Main Points:**
 - 1 – **Leading God's people is a noble task** (v.1)
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 - 3 – **Leaders must keep their eyes on Jesus** (v.6-7)

CLOSE / PRAY:

(2 minutes)