

1 Timothy 3 - Lesson 3 - part 2
1 Timothy 3:14-15
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from the qualities of desired by God for leaders.

Intro: 1. We can find all types of “standards” today.
2. However who has the true standard?

I. About Elders and Deacons

A. About the position of Deacon

1. The terms used for elders are never applied to deacons.
2. The word “deacon” means a servant.
3. The functions of deacons are different from elders

B. Are Elders over the spiritual while deacons are over the material?

1. The elders are over all aspects of the work of the church.
2. Wise elders will delegate work.
 - a. This way the elders are not distracted from watching and caring for the flock.

- The word “likewise” means “in this manner” (3:8)

II. Qualifications of a Deacon

Verse 8

1. Reverent (Grave KJV) - serious, honorable, dignified (1 Tim 2:2; Titus 2:2)
2. Not double-tongued - says one thing to one and something else to another
3. Not given to much wine - this is not a license for a little.
 - a. In the Greek the idea is a man is not to be enslaved to wine.
 - b. **Moderation has never changed wrong to right**, as we so in our last lesson, Christians should not be near alcohol.
4. Not greedy for money (not greedy of filthy lucre KJV) - greedy of base gain.
 - a. Money is not condemned but the love of money is condemned (1 Tim 6:10)

Verse 9

5. Holding the mystery of the faith a pure conscience - hold means to adhere to; to cling to
 - a. Deacons cannot be weak concerning the faith

Verse 10

6. Proved - means to be put to the test, for the purpose of approving
 - a. Those who serve as deacons must be those who have proved themselves to be faithful to God and loyal to his word before they can be considered as a deacon.

Verse 11

7. The wives of deacons are also taken into consideration.
 - a. Since the context deals with elders and deacons these qualities are applied to the wives of both.
 - b. Reverent – serious, honorable, dignified
 - c. Not slanders – those who accuse and attempt to defame others
 - d. Temperate (sober KJV) – can also mean cautious
 - e. Faithful in all things – to be true to God in all things.

Verse 12

- a. Husbands of one wife (as discussed last week with elders)
- b. Ruling their children and their own houses well. (as discussed last week with elders)

Verse 13

- a. The word “office” is used here and means position, standing.
- b. “used the office” refers to those who have ministered or served as a deacon.
- c. Purchased or obtain - obtain for themselves a good standing (a good degree KJV)
means they have attained trust and influence
- e. In the faith which is in Christ Jesus – our faith is to be in Christ, no where else.

III. The Purpose of Paul’s Writing (1 Tim 3:14-16)

A. To know how to conduct themselves in the Church (v.14-15)

1. Paul wanted them to have leadership but more importantly he wanted them to have qualified leaders.
2. Proper organization is another aspect of the church from the denominations.

B. 1 Timothy 3:16

(1 Tim 3:16a) Man’s hope is dependent upon God revealing His will to man and He has done so **(2 Pt 1:3)**

1. The Mystery is about Christ, the gospel, the church, salvation, etc.

2. (v.16b)

- a. Christ was God in the flesh
- b. Christ was justified by his spiritual life and character, He was without sin.
- c. Angels announced his coming, ministered to Him after He was tempted by Satan and announced His resurrection.
- d. He preached to all nations including the Gentiles
- e. Many came to believe in Him

f. He was resurrected and ascended to the right hand of God.

IV. Lessons for us today.

A. God's Servants must have certain qualities.

1. These qualifications ensure that the right type of men serve as leaders.
2. God has set the standard but it is up to man to uphold them.

B. God shows us what true leaders look like not this corrupt world that surrounds us.

1. The world around us looks for a lot of different things in leaders.
2. God looks for qualities that are good the church and qualities that which are in a man
who is living as a light for the world, will make a positive influence upon those inside and outside the church.

Application & Conclusion:

1. Let us be those who when considering leaders look to the Bible for the standard.
2. History has taught us many things and one we learn over and over again is that God's way is the best way (**Isa 55:9**).
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear - James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe - Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent - Luke 13:2-3

Confess - John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized - 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully - John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9