

# Qualifications for Church Leadership

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13

(27)

## 1 TIMOTHY: DUTIES AND ORDER IN THE CHURCH, 1 Timothy 2:1-3:13

### The Overseers of the Church, 1 Timothy 3:1-7

(1 Timothy 3:1-7) Introduction: the office of *bishop* is probably the same office as elder or presbyter or minister in the New Testament. All three words refer to the same person, to the minister of the gospel and of the church.

- 1) What are the qualifications of the minister?
- 2) Who should be preaching the gospel and filling the pulpits of the Lord's church?
- 3) Who should be considering the ministry—what kind of person?

Before discussing the individual qualifications against which all pastors are to be measured, however, Paul gives some helpful insight into the call to spiritual leadership.

1. The office of minister or bishop (v.1).
2. Personal qualifications (v.2-3).
3. Family qualifications: the minister or bishop must rule his own home (v.4-5).
4. Spiritual qualifications (v.6).
5. Community qualifications (v.7).

### 3. (1 Timothy 3:4-5) Minister— Bishop— Elder: the minister or bishop must meet one very significant family qualification.

1 Timothy 3:4-5 (NASB)

<sup>4</sup>He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all [gravity] dignity

<sup>5</sup>(but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),

**All leadership seeks to accomplish one goal: influence.** Leaders seek to influence people to achieve their objectives. Influence is a direct result of teaching and example.

What a man is will influence his followers to be fully committed to what he says. Teaching sets the nails into the mind, but example is the hammer that drives them in deep.

Not surprisingly, the Scripture has much to say about the power of example to influence behavior, both for good and for evil. In Leviticus 18:3(NASB) God warned Israel not to follow the example of their pagan neighbors: **“You shall not do what is done in the land of Egypt where you lived, nor are you to do what is done in the land of Canaan where I am bringing you; you shall not walk in their statutes.”**

**Deuteronomy 18:9(NASB)** repeats that warning: “When you enter the land which the Lord your God gives you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations.”

**Proverbs 22:24-25(NASB)** warns, “Do not associate with a man given to anger; or go with a hot-tempered man, lest you learn his ways, and find a snare for yourself.”

The power of an evil ruler to influence his subordinates is seen in **Proverbs 29:12(NASB)**: “If a ruler pays attention to falsehood, all his ministers become wicked.”

Hosea echoed that warning: “And it will be, like people, like priest; so I will punish them for their ways, and repay them for their deeds” (**Hosea 4:9(NASB)**).

Our Lord gave this indictment of the Scribes and Pharisees in **Matthew 23:1-3(NASB)**: “Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying, The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things, and do not do them.”

The Bible also encourages us to follow godly examples. Paul commended the Thessalonians for becoming “imitators of us and of the Lord” (**1 Thessalonians 1:6(NASB)**).

To the **Philippians** he wrote, “The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things” (**Philippians 4:9(NASB)**).

He encouraged both **Timothy** (**1 Timothy 4:12**) and **Titus** (**Titus 2:7**) to be good examples for their people to follow.

**Hebrews 13:7** exhorts us to follow the example of godly leaders, while **James 5:10** points us to the example of the prophets.

**Peter** admonishes elders to be examples to their flocks (**1 Peter 5:3**).

The power of example can be seen in the influence of two of Israel’s kings. Repeatedly, godly kings of the southern kingdom are said to have **followed the example of David** (cf. **1 Kings 3:3; 1 Kings 15:11; 2 Kings 18:1-3; 2 Kings 22:1-2; 2 Chronicles 29:1-2; 2 Chronicles 34:1-2**), while wicked kings of the northern kingdom are said to **walk in the sins of Jeroboam** (cf. **1 Kings 16:1-2, 18-19, 25-26, 30-31; 2 Kings 3:1-3; 2 Kings 10:29, 31; 2 Kings 13:1-2, 6, 10-11; 2 Kings 14:23-24; 2 Kings 15:8-9, 17-18, 23-24, 27-28; 2 Kings 17:22**).