

Qualifications for Church Leadership

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13

(6)

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 (see below Deeper Study #1, Elder—Titus 1:5-9 for more discussion).

- 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).

1. (1 Timothy 3:1) Minister— Bishop— Elder: the office of minister or bishop is a “good work.”

1 Timothy 3:1b (NASB)

¹ It is a trustworthy statement: **if any man** aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires *to do*.

- It is an 1) important calling,
- 2) **a limited calling,**
 - 3) a compelling calling,
 - 4) a responsible calling,
 - 5) a worthy calling, and
 - 6) a demanding calling.

A Limited Calling

Church leadership is not for everyone. An essential requirement for a church leader is that he be a **man**. The indefinite pronoun *tis* (**any**) should be taken here as masculine, in agreement with the masculine form of the adjectives in [verses 2-6](#).

[1 Timothy 3:2-6 \(NASB\)](#)

² An overseer, then, must be above reproach, **the husband** of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

³ not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.

⁴ *He must be one who manages **his** own household well, keeping **his** children under control with all dignity*

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

⁶ *and not a new convert, so that **he** will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.*

Also, a woman could hardly be a “**one-woman man**” ([v. 2](#)), nor did women in that day head households ([vv. 5-6](#)). Paul here applies the truth he taught in [1 Timothy 2:11-15](#): women are not to be the leaders in the church.

[1 Timothy 2:11-15 \(NASB\)](#)

¹¹ A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.

¹² **But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.**

¹³ For it was Adam who was first created, *and* then Eve.

¹⁴ *And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.*

¹⁵ **But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.**

However, they have a vitally important role in the church, the home, and in society. That role, however, does not include leadership over God’s people.