



# “What a Godly Leader Must Be”

## 1 Timothy 3

### Lesson 4

#### *In A Nutshell*

Not everyone can be the leader the local church requires. Only men with the qualities specified here in chapter 3 qualify. It is a demanding list for a flawed human being and one which ought to inform our appreciation for our godly leaders' need for God's grace and protection, and for our love and support.

#### *To The Testimony!*

#### What Is a Bishop?

1 Tim.  
3:1

1. Paul has a unique way of designating what he calls "true saying [s]" or "faithful saying[s]" in the Pastoral Epistles (see 1 Tim. 1:15, 4:8-9, 2 Tim. 2:11, and Titus 3:8). Paul's point is not that his other sayings are untrue or unfaithful, but rather that he wants to emphasize the veracity of what he is saying in these special phrases. What does Paul want to emphasize as especially true in this passage (verse 1)? Why might the emphasis be necessary? Why would some wrongfully view the statement as false?

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#### From The Honeycomb:

What is a *bishop*? Greek: *episkopos*

*Episkopos*, from which we get our word *Episcopal*, means literally *one who oversees*. Today we think of bishops as high-ranking denominational officials with regional responsibilities. This is not what is meant by *bishop* in Scripture, however. *Epi-* is a preposition which means *over*, and *skopos* is a word that refers to *sight* (like *telescope* or *microscope*). The word is used once in reference to the Lord Jesus, where it is tied to the synonym *Shepherd* or *Pastor*: 1 Peter 2:25, “For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned

unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls." We also see the idea of shepherding or pastoring connected to *episkopos* in Acts 20:28-30 and 1 Peter 5:2. The following passages use the word *episkopos* in conjunction with another key synonym besides *shepherd* or *pastor*. Read the passages, find the other synonym, and answer the question, "What is a bishop?"

Acts 20:17, 28  
 Titus 1:5-7  
 1 Peter 5:1-4

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### What Must a Bishop Be?

- 1 Tim. 3:2-3
2. What must a bishop be? Let's start with verses two and three where Paul enumerates a dozen quick but profound descriptions of what the life of a bishop must be. In Greek, Paul's statement emphasizes the word *must*. This kind of life is mandatory for the office of an overseer, not optional. The chart below will direct you to a passage which will help you develop a definition for each of a pastor's mandatory qualifications. Complete the chart by defining each qualification after reading the passage.

Qualification	Passage	Definition
Blameless	Luke 20:20-26	
The husband of one wife	Matthew 5:27-32	
Vigilant, sober	1 Peter 5:8-9	
Of good behavior	Ecclesiastes 12:13	
Given to hospitality	3 John 1-8	

Apt to teach	2 Timothy 2:2	
Not given to wine	Proverbs 31:4-7	
No striker	2 Timothy 2:24-26	
Not greedy of filthy lucre	Matthew 6:19-24	
Patient	1 Peter 2:18, "gentle"	
Not a brawler	2 Timothy 2:23-26	
Not covetous	Philippians 4:10-20	

### From The Honeycomb:

"take care of the church of God", Greek: *epimeleomai*

Paul uses a rare New Testament word to describe the work of the pastorate. It is used only here in 1 Tim. 3:5 and at the end of Luke 10:34, "and *took care of* him." Take a look at Luke 10:30-35, find out what this kind of care involves, and answer question number 3.

1 Tim.  
3:4-5

- Paul goes on to deal with the family of the qualified man. His emphasis is that these men should lead their families. This role is not sub-contracted to the wife or the kids. His children ought to be doing what he wants, not what they want. He has not become contented to see his children disobey the Lord. He is rather dealing with them as the leader of his home. Paul then says that this family leadership is necessary for a pastor to "take care of" the church of God. Check the "From the Honeycomb" exercise and explain what this word implies about the ministry of a pastor.

1 Tim.  
3:6-7

4. The condemnation of the devil and the snare of the devil are threats to the ministry of the pastor. How are these things to be avoided by those commissioning leaders through the examination of their qualifications?

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### What Must a Deacon Be?

1 Tim.  
3:8-13

Acts  
6:1-8

5. Verses 8-13 cover deacons, the other office of the local church (Phil. 1:1). This section begins with the word *likewise* because many of the qualifications of the deacon are the same as the qualifications of the bishop/pastor/elder. An important one is missing, however, and this gives us some understanding of the difference between pastors and deacons. The name *deacon* means *servant* and the name *pastor* means *shepherd*, and so the names of the offices describe the difference between their roles as well. What is the difference between the role of pastors and the role of deacons?

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### What Is a Church?

1 Tim.  
3:14-16

6. We learned in Lesson 1 the purpose of 1 Timothy from this passage, "that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself" in the local church. Paul gives the church three distinct names in this passage. What are they, and what do they imply about the ministry of the local church (verse 15)?

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