

Sermon Outline  
Rev. Dr. Edd Cathey  
The Character of Church Leaders  
October 1, 2017

**Sermon Text 1 Timothy 3:1-13.**

**Excursus:** Before we get there a word about men, as male persons, as a qualification for leadership.

Often misunderstood:

1 Timothy 2:12-14

[12] I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. [13] For Adam was formed first, then Eve; [14] and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. (ESV)

**Two points:**

1. Men were supposed to lead as those given the tasks of dominion by God in the Garden. **Hence: “For Adam was formed first,”** but instead, man became the leader in plunging the whole race into sin and he has no excuse because he was not deceived but acted with his eyes wide open. He abdicated his creation responsibility. **Hence: “Adam was not deceived.”**

2. Christian men united to the second Adam (Christ) must lead in the community of redemption (the Church). They are to be images of Christ in this sense. In Christ they are to “exercise authority” in the church. **In doing so they retake (recapitulate) their created role as heads of family and church for the sake of those whom they serve.**

**Today’s text--**

Who were the overseers and deacons?

Adding up all the data from Acts 20, in Philippians 1 and in Titus 1, the terms "overseer" and "elder" referred to the same office.

**The office of deacon** was instituted as the church grew in size and the demands on the leadership required that certain functions be delegated.

*Teaching and ruling are not* specifically mentioned in connection with deacons.

**But both offices share these requirements.**

**Must be above reproach.**

The qualification is a requirement of faithfulness in marriage.

This means that if the man is married he must be faithful in that marriage and if married previously, he must have been faithful in that marriage.

The candidate must be *temperate*

*Self-controlled*

*Respectable*

*Hospitality*

As the list continues, it prohibits certain characteristics of behavior.

1. **Tendencies toward *drunkenness* and violence** (Tit 1:7) are clearly reasons for

2. **At the same time, the overseer must not be *quarrelsome*.** This tendency

3. **Then, the overseer must not be a *lover of money*.**

Paul cites proficient management of the household as a prerequisite of church leadership (vv. 4-5).

The overseer must not be a new believer (v. 6).

**Third, the final condition** states clearly what has already been implied: the overseer must have **a good testimony before *outsiders*** (v. 7).

*Our message is that important! It is the only message about the only Savior that brings salvation, healing (shalom), restoration to a broken world.*