

Thursday, November 10, 2022 ▫ Read 1Timothy 3:4-7

Questions from the Scripture text: What must an overseer do to his house (v4)? In what manner? What do his children do? With how much reverence/dignity? What won't a man know how to do, if he isn't doing this (v5)? What does this imply is the work of an overseer in the church? What mustn't he be in the church (v6)? What would it risk happening to him? What would it risk his falling into? What must an overseer have with outsiders (v7)? What would this avoid his falling into? Who uses this reproach as a snare?

Where should an overseer have been proven? 1Timothy 3:4-7 looks forward to the second reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **before being made an overseer in the church, a man must have proven himself in the home, in the church, and in the community.**

It is God Who works in overseers the character that they ought to have, and it is God Who attends their shepherding and teaching with His power to bless it to His church. This is also the case with husbands and fathers, with church members, and with citizens. So the Lord teaches us here to look for the character that He produces, and the blessing that He brings from it, in those three spheres.

A proven man in the home, v4-5. A qualified man oversees his own house well. His children have learned to submit with "reverence." This is translating a word that means "dignity" or even "majesty." There is a confidence, joy, and nobility about them. They submit not as those who cower at what might happen if they don't, and not unthinkingly, but as those who have great confidence in God's use of their earthly father. The church is not to be full of nervous or mindless captives but royal princes and princesses; any children of a man whom God will use for this will be similar in the home.

A proven man in the church, v6. Before he can be rightly called to shepherd, a man must first operate in a godly manner under shepherding in the church. He is not to be a neophyte—"newly planted." Even the best-appearing new convert is in danger of getting a big head about himself and his spirituality. Sometimes, in the freshness of conversion, a new believer may mistake the steadiness of more mature believers for less spiritual life or warmth. (This is even easier to do in such a dead and cold time in the churches as that in which your author lives).

This pride, this puffing up due to lack of experience, can bring a man into the condemnation of the devil. The devil is glad to condemn others in that which he himself is most guilty of. For he was actually puffed up in pride against God! Those who are going to be instruments in God's hands had better realize Who is weak and who is God.

A proven man in the community, v7. The qualified man will have "a good testimony among those who are outside." This doesn't necessarily mean that everyone likes him. "Good" is still defined by God. But what people have seen in the community is the character described in vv2-3.

The v2 things are there: he's not a pragmatist but a steady believer in God who is devoted to his wife, loves strangers, understands the faith well, and can communicate it. The v3 things are properly absent: he's not controlled by appetites, doesn't manipulate or compel people by bare authority, doesn't take every advantage he can get away with, isn't always countering what others say, and doesn't love money.

People in the community may not like him for it, but they could attest that he is as God has described. This applied to another "blameless man," Job. Satan reproached him and tried to trap him, but he came out at last refined and even better than before. v7 says that a man's character with outsiders—in business, with neighbors, with magistrates, etc.—must match vv2-3 or Satan's tactics will succeed against him.

What kind of person are you in the home? What kind of person are you in the church? What kind of person are you in the community? What men in the church do you know that are exemplary in all three?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for working in us and through us. Forgive us for when we act differently in different places. We betray that we like to portray ourselves better than we are. Help us to live and lead in a way that shows joy and dignity and confidence in You. Forgive us for being puffed up and thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought. Grant us forgiveness through Christ and conformity to His gentleness and lowliness of spirit, we ask in His Name, AMEN!

ARP128 "How Blessed Are All Who Fear the Lord" or TPH128B "Blest the Man Who Fears Jehovah"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

First Timothy 3 4 through 7. These are God's words. One who rules his own house. Well, Having his children in submission with all reverence, For a man does not know how to rule his own house. How will he take care of the Church of God? Not a novice must being puffed.

Up with pride. He fall into the same condemnation as the devil. Moreover, you must have a good testimony. Among those who are outside. Lest he fall into reproach. And the snare of the devil. So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent words. The Lord continues, giving us that character of a proper, bishop a proper overseer.

Or elder or pastor. And now he's describing the A man's, not just the things that he must be like in verse 2, and that he must not be like in verse 3. But three areas in which he's been proven, not to be the things in verse 3 in which he's been proven to be the things.

And verse 2. He's been proven to be this kind of man in the home versus foreign five. In the church for six. And in the community. Verse 7. He's been proven to be

this kind of man in the home. One who rules his own house. Well, And what does that mean?

It means. That his children are in submission with reverence Now. This word. For reverence is not the same word that we usually see, for reverence, It's a word. Which means? Weighty and with dignity, and even with majesty, It doesn't mean that his His children are. Very timid. And, Unspirited.

And, Door, mats or slaves, or clones, or sheep in his home. They are like, princess and princesses. Now, why would we look for a man in whom, the Lord has so worked and whose work the Lord has. So used to work in others. That those who are under his shepherding care would be going around with the sort of dignity and majesty as Crown Prince's and brings uses.

Well. Because that's the sort of household the churches. Are they not all united to Christ? And heirs of the royal inheritance of heaven. They adopted sons and daughters. Of the great God and King of all the world. Well, that's what they will come out looking like and acting like by the Holy Spirit's application of Christ to them through those ministries which Christ has Has appointed and does ministers.

Whom Christ has called and chosen. And so, if you have a congregation in which people act like worldlings, One of the things you probably have are elders, who do not rule their own house. Well, whose children submit like royalty. Like majesty. Because they're not submitting. And they don't have.

Princely and royal manners. Royal privileges. Royal manners, royal status. Royal manners. When the other hand, if you have a church in which everyone is chronically depressed, and nervous, and anxious, and afraid to break any of the the rules and And muted and timid. Again. You might have someone who rules his own house.

Well, according to his own definition. But thankfully, Jesus has given us is definition. They should be cheerful and joyful and dignified and majestic. In the church, and in the home. And you should. Be able to tell. The. By submissiveness joyful. Dignity. Even majesty, or royalty to some extent. And the conduct of the children in the character of the children, how they carry themselves?

And that he's ruling. His own house. Well. And he makes that direct connection that I've been making, which of course, is where I got it, I didn't come up with the connection between in the home and in the church. With verse 5, for if a man does not know how to rule his own house.

How will he take care of the church of God? You know, when the king and the queen, Are looking for a schoolmaster or a personal steward for the bringing up of the prince or the princess. They do not hire a nanny. Whose children are all rebellious? Or whose children are very obedient but are all miserable.

That is usually don't have children who's previous wards the children. She's taking care of The king and queen are looking for someone to hire steward or stewardess. They look for someone who's previous wards. Are happy. But Regal royal. They? They serve with a goodwill, they're diligent and zealous. Joyous dignified.

That's how. A man's children should be. If he is to be, An elder. Very well behaved of course but there's more. To it than just very well behaved. So, he's proven in the home, He's also proven in the church. This we see in verse 6, which says not a novice literally a neo fight.

Those of you who have been learning numbing clutcher, perhaps, In botany, or Biology of some other kind. You probably know that Neo means new and fight talks about planting newly planted or newly converted. Not someone who has newly been rooted into the church, not a new member. Of the church.

Lest being puffed up with pride. He fall into the same condemnation as the devil. He needs to have some Christian experience. Christian experience gives us or should give us. It's not really that Christian. If you're experience, doesn't give you humility, Because Christian experience is. Time during which you have learned dependence upon the Lord, your own A shortcomings, which is Everything, The Lord's own rich resources which are Everything.

And so you're learning to walk by grace. You're learning to walk by faith. You are disabused of your pride by realizing more and more day by day, week by week. That all the good you have all the good that is in. You comes from the Lord. And so, you become more, and more humble, and more, and more thankful.

More and more ready to honor the Lord Himself More and more ready to recognize his work and others even when it is small. And as you help others along and are used to advance God's work in them, you don't despise the smallness of the work that he has done.

Because it's work that he has done. And your rejoice over it and continuing to participate in it. This is not something you can just decide to be like and suddenly be like, you should decide to be like it. But it's something that is learned and built. Over extended experience.

Humility is something that is rooted in the heart over time. Rich gratitude, profound. Profound gratitude is something that is rooted in the heart over time. Which means? That if you are not seeking to grow in humility, if you are not seeking to grow in gratitude, you are wasting time.

And you will still be a Neo fight some weeks months years. Hence, And so we need to be using the time that it takes to gain the experience. To learn our smallness. God's greatness. To be humble and thankful. Last we be puffed up. And fall into the condemnation of the devil.

Now that worked that phrase cuts two ways One? Yeah, of course, the double loves to condemn Christians For. Whatever he can. Especially if it's true. His. Satan and the devil, he's an accuser and An adversary. But it's also the very same condemnation into which the devil fell, he himself, who is puffed up, he himself.

Who was so impressed with his creaturely glory. That he failed to acknowledge the creator and thought that he Was above the rest of the creatures. Like the Creator is. Someone who has puffed up with pride. Is doing his best Satan imitation. That he can. And it doesn't say. Not someone who's puffed up.

Okay, so You may end up in, there's a lot of temptation in the churches. Sometimes a new believer because of their New believer, enthusiasm. There. You know, they have this like rapid Increase of growth at first and maybe, On tempered excitement and it also makes them liable to all sorts of theological errors.

And it's tempting to take someone like that and say they're really motivated. We need fresh excited blood. Let's make them an elder. No. A not a neophyte, lest he puffed up and then you say, well this one's not puffed up, he's so humble and sweet. Well. It says not a neophyte.

Lesty be puffed up. Your condemning that neophyte to getting puffed up because God says that's what will happen. Don't be a fool. And go by your own wisdom instead of by the word of God. Now, one of the things that that can happen, especially you put an excited zealous person into leadership, and they starts shepherding people in the church, he's got some people who Don't grow at all.

And don't care to obey, aren't excited for the gospel because surprise Church has unconverted people in it just like the Bible told us. It would And he starts to feel self-superior to those. And then he starts interacting with mature, believers. Who are growing, but it's steady. And that their joy is much deeper than it was at first.

And so it doesn't have these peaks and valleys. And their zeal is steady. And, The immature, neophyte believer. It doesn't know quite how to connect with them

precisely because he doesn't have that rooted. Christian experience that the Mature believers do and he mistakes them. For the same as the other other category he thinks oh they are.

Dead. They must not be real Christians because they're not as excited. And frenzied as I am. And my new faith. And so he gets puffed up even over against the mature. It is a harmful thing. To put a neophyte into Shepherding. As needs to be a man who has proven.

In the church not in Ephite. And then, of course, also proven in the community You see that in verse 7? Moreover, he must have a good testimony among those who are outside. Lest he fall into reproach. And the snare of the devil. He has a good testimony. This means.

Not necessarily that everyone likes him. Because good is still. Defined by God. Good as what we see in verse 2. Good is what we see in verse 3. Good as what we see in verse 4. The world doesn't necessarily like. The godly character in verse 2 and verse 3 and verse 4, But The people in the community can testify.

That. Yep, if you give them a list, Of what the What? The overseer, man. The bishop man, the elder man should look like They can say, yeah, he's like that. If you give them a list from verse 2 and verse 3, and verse 4, So he has a good testimony.

With those were outside People in the community can say. Yeah, he's not a pragmatist. Here's a steady believer in God. Is a one-woman man devoted to his wife. He loves strangers. He understands the faith well and can communicate it. The people in the community can testify. That he doesn't, he's not like verse the verse three things, he isn't controlled by his appetites.

He doesn't manipulate people or compel them by his bear authority. Like that word violence means. He doesn't take every advantage that he can get away with, doesn't. Is not a man of shameless gain. Like we heard in verse 3. He isn't always countering what others say. You know, the guy who's always making the contrarian or devil's advocate point.

He doesn't love money. Now, they might not like those things, but they could testify that he's good. They could testify as we were talking earlier that his children. Are as described. In verse 4. These things of course applied to another blameless, man Job. And, And you remember, Satan wanted to be able to reproach Job and to trap Job.

And even asked God for permission to do things that he thought might trap Job. What this is telling us in verse 7, Is that the devil still does things like this? He still looks for ways. To trap. Those who are believers. And, Appear to be blameless, but aren't on the inside.

Maybe they aren't at home. They look like it in the community, maybe they. Aren't in the community even though they may look like it at church. And they will fall into approach in this narrow, the devil, if that's not how they are actually, like In their ordinary everyday relationships.

Their employers, their employees, their co-workers, their neighbors. The people of the community meetings. They should all be able to testify. Of the verse 2 and verse 3 and verse 4 qualities. About. About the man. So that it's not just something that some people at church think it's everyone, And every sphere of his life.

Home. Church community. Knows that he is a man that is like this. Why? Because he needs to be a man who has actually like this. We're trusting that the Lord is going to use him in his church by his spirit. And so we're looking for the one in whom.

The Lord has actually done this work in. By his spirit. Well, let us pray that the Lord would give us such men. And if the Lord will do this work in us, that we would not just be these things that we have been hearing about. On the surface or in the eyes of our church, but also In the eyes of our family and the eyes of our community.

And that he would be blessing the fruits of our labor. Let's pray. Father, thank you that you who have loved us and have given Christ for us and report out your spirit for us. Also use. Those men, whom you who appointed as servants and this office in the church.

So we pray for the ones, you have given us that you would be working that in them. Such faith and grace and character as is real. And as is described with a particular details, that we've been hearing about thus far in this chapter What? Pray, Lord that you would be working these things in us.

We don't want to be Puffed up or contrarian or manipulative. Or shameless or greedy for money. We do want to be Lovers of strangers. And, Gentle in our spirit or reverential. And our conduct, not pragmatists, but those who trust you. And do things as you say because we are certain That you are good and that you do good.

So we pray Lord that your spirit would be working in each of us. And that he would use. The men, you have appointed as under shepherd's further. In. To further, you're working us as you have designed. Lord, we pray, especially for me. Since I am already an elder and for the boys.

If you might be pleased someday to make them elders in your church, We pray that you would be forming enough such character as would make us. To be. First of all, proven in our homes, And then useful and proven. In your church. Grant that we would have a good testimony.

That those who hate, what is good would hate us. Because they can see. That we are good. And that those who love what is good would love us. Because they can see that you have worked that goodness in us. Onto your praise through the grace of Christ in his name.

We ask it. Amen.