

3:3 Qualities of a Bishop

Series: 1 Timothy

Reading **1 Timothy 3:1-7** September 17th 2017

Last week we looked at the start of the qualities of a bishop. He was to be the husband of one wife. I explained that we held a very conservative view that this is an objective qualification: The same way that it is to be a man, it is to be a man of only one woman. Today we are going to move into the rest of the qualifications. These behavior patterns were given by God to help us choose men that are mature in the faith. It is the same qualities that every mature Christian should have in his life. We are not saying that these are the only mature people in the church. A woman is not in sin because she was born a woman, nor is a single man in sin. They just aren't qualified to fulfill this position.

- Christ knew men's hearts. Paul was lead and taught by the Lord. He was able to speak with the voice of God. Not that he was able to know more than most of us. He gives us, the weaker brothers, the characteristics that we are to look for. The emphasis on all of this is proved character.
- **1 Timothy 3:2-4** “² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;”
 - **Temperate, sober-minded** – sober, temperate 1a) abstaining from wine, either entirely or at least from its immoderate use 1b) of things free from all wine, as vessels, offerings
 - **Vs. 3** Not given to wine... so not referring to alcohol.
 - This is about a person's attitude in life. He is serious about the realities of life and watches to see that he isn't caught in addictive behaviors. Free from the weights of life.
 - **Hebrews 12:1-2** “¹ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
 - What are weights? The desire / love of money can be. The desire to please men. Anything that impacts our love of God.
 - **Matthew 22:37-39** “³⁷ Jesus said to him, you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹ And *the* second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
 - We stand in front of a great God, but we also stand in front of an eternal hell. There is no time to forget God or to be caught in the affairs of life.
 - Yes we work, we plan, we live, but we do it under the eyes of God.
 - **Ephesians 5:12-16** “¹² For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. ¹³ But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.
¹⁴ Therefore He says: Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light. ¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”
- **Of good behavior.** – General good lifestyle. You notice that this man is one you can come to, look to. He is the one who lives life right and you find yourself looking to him for an example.
 - **1 Co. 6:9-13** “⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. ¹² All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power

of any.¹³ Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.”

- **1 Co. 10:23-29** “²³ All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. ²⁴ Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's *well-being*. ²⁵ Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake; ²⁶ for the earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness. ²⁷ If any of those who do not believe invites you *to dinner*, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake. ²⁸ But if anyone says to you, This was offered to idols, do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for the earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness. ²⁹ Conscience, I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another *man's* conscience?”

◦ **Hospitable** – Lost art.

- The joy of having an open home.
- Need and opportunity to help. Desire to teach in family devotions...
 - Is your home open now, ready for the unexpected caller?
 - **1 Peter 4:7-11** “⁷ But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. ⁸ And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins. ⁹ Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”
 - **Romans 12:13** and **Hebrews 13:2** Always with love, even strangers...

◦ Able to teach.

- Not a Bible degree, but an understanding of scripture as a whole.
 - The sum of God’s word is truth. **Ps. 119:160**
 - What is sin? How does the law and grace relate? How about God’s sovereignty and man’s responsibilities? What is the minimum, non-negotiables of the doctrine of salvation?
 - Not always a known answer, but a general knowledge and an ability to open scripture and find the answers.
 - This is not archaic knowledge, but a practical application of how the scripture fits together.

- ³ not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;

◦ **Not given to wine,** – A person of wine. (much wine?)

- Quality, not quantity. It isn’t to be something that we cling to.
 - **1 Timothy 5:23** “No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.”
 - **Lev. 10:9** and **Eze. 44:21** No priest should be drunken when he enters into the temple.
 - (**Lev 10:1**) Nadab and Abihu – offered strange fire before the LORD (**Lev 10:9-11**) “⁹ Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die. *It shall be* a statute forever throughout your generations, ¹⁰ that you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean, ¹¹ and that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD has spoken to them by the hand of Moses.”
 - **Proverbs 31:4-5** “⁴ *It is* not for kings, O Lemuel, *it is* not for kings to drink wine, Nor for princes intoxicating drink; ⁵ Lest they drink and forget the law, And pervert the justice of all the afflicted.”

◦ Not Violent,

- 1) bruiser, ready for a blow 2) a pugnacious, contentious, quarrelsome person

- **2 Timothy 2:23-26** “²³ But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. ²⁴ And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, ²⁵ in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, ²⁶ and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.”
- **1Ti 6:11** “But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.”
- **Romans 14:19** “Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and the things by which one may edify another.”
 - Peace is truth under God, not an ecumenical peace, a peace of compromise.
- not greedy for money
 - His desire is to serve the Lord. It isn’t wrong to have money and that money belongs to the one who works / worked for it. It is wrong if that is our chief desire, or the love of money causes us to fall into error or sin. It is subtle, but real danger.
 - **1 Timothy 6:10-11** “¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. ¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.”
- but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;
 - Love for God is first, not love for things.
 - Love of God’s people second and love of our neighbor
 - Our desires are curbed by our love of God.
- ⁴ one who rules his own house well, having *his* children in submission with all reverence

These are the characteristics that we should be cultivating. We should be plowing, weeding, and planting the seeds for these. They are our life. Are we serious about them?

2Co 13:14 “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.”