

3:4 Qualities of a Bishop 02
Series: 1 Timothy
Reading 1 Timothy 3:1-7 September 23rd 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 and that this is an objective qualification. In 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 finish the last 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 as a woman, nor is a single man in sin. They just aren't qualified to fulfill this position. Join us as we look at verses 3-6 on the qualifications to be an overseer.

- **Why did Paul lay out these specific qualifications?** Christ knew men's hearts. Paul was lead and taught by the Lord with a special gift of the Holy Spirit. He was able to speak with the voice of God. 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** "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;"
 - **Temperate**, – *Vigilant / watchful*.
 - **Sober-minded** – prudent, self-controlled.
 - **Of good behavior** – prudent, general good lifestyle.
 - **Hospitable** – Lost art.
 - **Able to teach**.
 - Not a Bible degree, but an understanding of scripture as a whole, with a heart to share it.
 - Notice where this is? Between "hospitable" and "not given to wine"--Things that are primarily home activities. The family is the context for this and the results must be seen in the family--Not perfect, but growing, direction of travel.
- **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.
 - To keep near. I tend to think that this is very similar to money. It isn't sin to have money, but the love of money can lead to many sins, so it isn't sin to have wine, but the love or affection of it can lead to many sins.
 - **1 Timothy 5:23** "No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities."
 - Clear permission given for alcohol to be used for medicine. Cough syrup.
 - Same book as the rest.
 - **Lev. 10:9** and **Eze. 44:21** No priest should have drunken when he enters into the temple.
 - (**Lev 10:1**) Nadab and Abihu – offered strange fire before the LORD (**Lev 10:9-11**) "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."

- (1Co 6:12) “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.**” (Sexual appetite.)
- **Not Violent**
 - 1) bruiser, ready for a blow 2) a pugnacious, contentious, quarrelsome person (aggressive)
 - **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.”
 - Asking questions, leading with love, in disagreements – being controlled and manifesting the love of God and of the brethren.
 - **1Ti 6:11** “But you, O man of God, flee these things (*Immorality*) 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, not a peace of compromise, but a total submission to the will of God.
- **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.
- **One who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence**
 - Leadership in the home. He leads! He rules!
 - God gave man leadership in the home, to care for and preserve.
 - Ephesian 5:22-30 “²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.”
 - Wives are told to submit, note that husbands aren’t told “make your wives submit!”
 - Husbands are told to give loving leadership that sanctifies the wife, nourishing and cherishing.
 - His children are under submission... with all reverence.
 - They respect their parents and are obedient. Not perfect, but generally this is the characteristics of the children.
 - This is hated in the world’s eyes today.

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 “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.”