

3:1 The Office of Bishop
Series: 1 Timothy
Reading **1 Timothy 3:1-7** September 3rd 2017

In our study of Paul's first letter to Timothy, we have reached chapter 3. With the conclusion of Chapter 2 and Paul's admonition to women that they are not to teach or take authority over a man, you might think that the issues of major contention are over, but you would be wrong. In fact, we are entering an area that has even more debate and is much closer to home. While there are many conservative churches that take 1 Timothy chapter 2 in a literal sense, there is much greater debate in conservative churches over 1 Timothy chapter 3. We will be studying this over the next couple of weeks. We are here to study God's word to see what He has said. We are here because we want to know how we are to behave in the church of the living God. Join us as we start looking at the qualifications of church leaders.

- Background
 - Paul left Timothy in Ephesus to charge some that they “teach no other doctrine.” (**1 Timothy 1:3**). Timothy was put into a position of leadership to stand for the truth.
 - He gives Timothy this letter, this charge if you will, that he “might war a good warfare.” (**1Ti. 1:18**).
 - He lays this out publicly, so that the Church of God will also know how it is to behave. (**1 Ti. 3:15**).
- **1 Timothy 3:1** “This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.”
 - This is a faithful saying... So easy to read and pass over....
 - **1Ti 1:15** “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”
 - **1Ti 4:8-9** “⁸ For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. ⁹ This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.”
 - **Tit 3:8** “This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.”
 - **2Ti 2:11** “This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him.”
 - Paul is giving the church some data points, some key ingredients for living the Christian life.
 - If a man desires the office of bishop...
 - This is not about politics or wanting to be a leader.
 - I have often heard that this is the place God gives permission for men to aspire to leadership.
 - This is about having a burden for the Word of God to be lifted up.
 - Warnings to leadership!
 - Matthew **18:1-35**
 - **Matthew 18:1-4** “¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven? ² Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, ³ and said, Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”
 - Greatest trusts most, loves freely, trusts, innocent of evil,
 - not perfect....
 - **Matthew 18:8-9** “⁸ If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.”

- Ready to sacrifice to see sin purged from their own life.
- **Romans 13:14** “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.”
- **Matthew 18:11-12** ¹¹ For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost. ¹² What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying?”
 - Willingness to go! To the lost, despised.
 - No justification for living like the world, but a seeking that draws the lost one out of the world.
 - We have erred today in allowing the lost to stay like they are. There is no call to come and follow.
- **Matthew 18:14-15** ¹⁴ Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. ¹⁵ Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.”
 - Leadership is ready to confront and forgive. Agony over division and truth.
 - **John 13:35** “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- **Matthew 18:21-22** ²¹ Then Peter came to Him and said, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times? ²² Jesus said to him, I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.”
 - Parable of the two servants with debt. We are all debtors and servants.
- To the Pharisees – **Matthew 23:11** “But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.”
- **John 19** – He washed the disciples’ feet.
 - **John 13:12-17** ¹² So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”
 - Leaders were to be the ones who gave themselves in service to the body.
 - They were to do the undesirable jobs and serve the people who followed.
 - **James 3:1-2** ¹ My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. ² For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.
- So I have a hard time looking at this and lifting up a desire for leadership.
- This is a burden to explain and live the truth.
 - **1 Timothy 1:3** “As I urged you when I went into Macedonia-- remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine,”
 - **Titus 1:4-5** ⁴ To Titus, a true son in *our* common faith: Grace, mercy, *and* peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior. ⁵ For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you”
 - **Ephesians 4:11-16** ¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every

wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-- Christ--¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

This is the burden that a man has, to live the truth in life. It is a consuming passion to see God glorified, the people of God standing. This burden should be must be shared by every true shepherd of the flock. It is what keeps us going in spite of opposition. It is what balances the love in our heart for the lost and fallen and holds us to the truth. It is not to be limited to the pastor though. It is the call to every believer to hold God and His word up. To realize there is no foundational truth outside of the word of God.

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.”