

I Timothy 3
Serving as a Leader

The Desire (1) – a noble task – ***taking a leadership role in the church is honorable***

A calling of the heart (Psalm 37:4) – ***when we delight ourselves in the Lord, He will show us when, where, and how we can lead***

A careful consideration (James 3:1) – ***leaders can have great influence and thus are accountable to God for what they teach***

The Qualities (2-9, 11-12) see attached sheet

THIS IS A SEPARATE LESSON – USE THESE 2 LESSONS IN ANY ORDER THAT WORKS FOR YOU

The Testing (10) – ***it is vital that a person is tested by those who are mature before they are placed in a leadership position***

Holding firm to the truth (Titus 1:9)

Leaders must have a firm grasp of the Scripture and know sound doctrine

Having a clear conscience – short accounts with the Lord (I Timothy 4:2/I Corinthians 4:4)

Leaders cannot carry the baggage of unrepentant sin – they will be targeted by Satan

Having no charges against him – short accounts with others (reputation) (Matthew 5:23-24)

A poor reputation will be brought to light when someone is serving as a leader

Having been tested (vs. 6 / Philippians 2:19-23 / I Timothy 5:22)

A new convert will likely become either overwhelmed or conceited in their ministry

The Recognition (13) – ***God notices service that is well done – even a cup of water given in His name***

Serving well (Matthew 25:21)

Oh, to hear Jesus say those words

Standing of excellence (compare Acts 6:5-6 with Acts 8:4-8)

Serving well opens doors for even greater opportunities

Secure in faith (II Peter 3:10-11)

When we are growing and serving our faith is more certain

The Foundation (14-16) – ***We are to base all we are and do on the truth (John 14:6; 17:17)***

The house of God – we are all members of His church (Ephesians 2:19-21; 3:14-15)

The teaching of Jesus and His apostles. We must speak the truth in love.

The Church of the living God – the church belongs to Him (Acts 20:28)

The church is to honor our Creator and our Savior – He is to be our Guide in all things

The pillar and foundation of truth – we cannot sway from His Word (Acts 20:32 / John 17:17)

If our practices and teachings do not come from His Word, we are not His church

The mystery of godliness on display – it is all because of Jesus (Galatians 5:20)

We own that anything good comes from Jesus – He must be exalted above all

Discussion questions for I Timothy 3

Why should every believer seek to prepare themselves for possible leadership?

(Matthew 28:19 / Ephesians 6:4 / Judges 4:4 / Mark 10:43-45)

We are all called to serve in some form of leadership, whether discipleship, parenting, or even halving to step in when no one else is available. The qualities of a leader are the qualities every believer should have. Jesus taught us that to lead we must learn to serve. To serve and show love to God is to serve and show love to others – that is leadership.

Consider the 4 points of testing on the outline – what might happen if these tests were ignored?

(Acts 20:29-31 / Jude 3-4 / Ephesians 4:17-19; 26-27 / I Peter 2:11-12 / I Corinthians 1:12; 3:5-7 /

Galatians 5:26) ***We would open the door for false teaching and false teachers to infiltrate the church. People would become confused, and hearts would become hardened as sinful practices became more prevalent. There would be divisions in the body – pitting leaders against other leaders. Young believers could easily become conceited, having a negative impact on themselves and others.***

We all want to hear Jesus say, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.’ What things are important for us to do if we desire to hear those words? (Luke 16:10; 19:12-23 / John 15:5-8 / Galatians 2:20-21)

Be faithful in the small things, investing whatever He’s given us in His kingdom. (do not sit on your talents) Be sure to stay plugged in to the vine – walking with Jesus in accordance with His word. Be surrendered to Christ in our lives – not living for self, but for Him and in His strength (be filled with the Spirit)

What is the responsibility of the church according to I Timothy 3:15? How is this accomplished? Why is leadership so vital? (II Timothy 4:1-5 / II Peter 2:1-2) ***The church is to be the pillar and the foundation of truth. We must faithfully teach and live out His Word, not compromising the truth. Leaders who stray from His Word can influence many others to do the same.***

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