

### **Recap of 3/25/18 (1 Timothy 3:2-3)**

1. The Lord's view of leadership throughout the Bible runs counter to human ideas about what makes a good leader. This is established in the New Testament by Jesus' teaching on leadership. We see it in the Old Testament by example. For instance, in 1 Samuel 16 God sends Samuel to anoint Saul's successor as King of Israel. As he evaluates Jesse's sons he evaluates on the basis of external looks and features. God corrects him in the familiar statement, man looks on the outward appearance but God looks on the heart. The question for us is how do we see the heart of a man. Paul's character qualifications laid out in 1 Timothy 3 (and Titus 1) expose a man's heart (his inner self). As one writer said: "A person's lifestyle and relationships provide a window into their character." We see a man's heart by seeing how he interacts with his wife, how he interacts with his children, how he treats others, whether his emotions are under control, and whether he insists on having his own way.
2. "To be a church leader is a heavy responsibility because the church belongs to God, and church leaders represent Him. It is good to want to be a spiritual leader, but the standards are high. The criteria for leadership have more to do with character than with accomplishments. ... most of the qualifications are character qualities, not knowledge or skill. Church leaders should not be chosen because they are popular, nor should they be allowed to push their way to the top. Instead, chosen for respect for the truth in what they believe and how they live." (One Year Study Bible NLT)
3. Paul names 15 character qualities in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, which are to be present in a man who would fill the office of Overseer (synonymous with Elder, Pastor). Most are self-explanatory. Several require additional explanation.
4. One such requirement is "the husband of but one wife." In Greek the phrase is literally "a one-woman man." Ed Glasscock in his article "The Biblical Concept of Elder" defines this as "literally being a 'one -woman type of man.' That is, not a flirtatious man but one who is content with his wife." John MacArthur adds the following: "This has nothing to do with previous divorce, not does it prohibit a single man from serving."
5. Another requirement needing explanation is "apt or able to teach." It's not a reference to the gift of teaching but the ability to communicate the truth of the gospel with humility and credibility. What an earlier scholar, Bishop Moule calls "an explanatory servant of God." "By word of mouth, by loving and humble spirit, by example of life, he is to explain to people the message of God."