

Recap of 7/26/26 message by Chris Sommerfield
(“Leadership that Models Godliness”) *1 Timothy 3:1-16*

- This passage provides qualities and qualifications for church leaders, emphasizing the importance of character and conduct in those who oversee the church. Godly leadership is essential for a healthy church; it not only shapes the faith community but also provides a model for all believers to pursue Christ-like character. There is a theme of being “beyond reproach,” “blameless,” and having a “good reputation with those outside the church” moving us to see the necessity of good conduct and consistency in one’s life as it relates to faith and truth when considering and evaluating church leadership.

- We are all image bearers. As believers we represent Christ to the world, so we must consider our lives and the testimony that is given through our words and actions regarding our savior. Church leaders should live in such a way they are able to say with Paul “follow my example as I follow the example of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1). As believers we should all be leading someone, whether in the home, at work, or among our friends. Discipleship is a call for all believers (Matthew 28:19-20). Are we following the example Christ set for us? Christ demonstrates an example through servanthood, self-denial, and willingness to endure suffering. These are qualities that reshape how we should live. Rather than simply commanding obedience, Christ embodied the life He calls his followers to pursue. His example encompasses forgiveness, patience, love, gentleness, humility, and purity, creating a comprehensive portrait of Christian transformation rooted not in abstract principle but in the very pattern Jesus established. We must consider our lives as we seek to follow the example of our Lord and Savior. Let us lead beyond reproach in God’s household and in the world.