

“Church Leadership”

1 Timothy 3:1-16

1The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. **2**Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, **3**not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. **4**He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, **5**for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church? **6**He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. **7**Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. **8**Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. **9**They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. **10**And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. **11**Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. **12**Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. **13**For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. **14**I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, **15**if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. **16**Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

(1 Timothy 3:1-16 ESV)

5This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— **6**if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. **7**For an overseer, as God’s steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, **8**but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. **9**He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. **(Titus 1:5-9 ESV)**

1So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: **2**shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; **3**not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. **4**And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. **5**Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” **(1 Peter 5:1-5 ESV)**

1Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. **2**And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. **3**Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. **4**But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” **5**And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. **6**These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. **7**And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. **(Acts 6:1-7 ESV)**

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