

1 Timothy Chapter 3 Study Sheet

Read verses 1 – 7.

The titles used for various leadership positions and roles in the Church may have changed over the centuries; however, the important function and responsibilities of those positions and roles have not changed. In this chapter, Paul provides guidance on the *qualifications* required for leadership and service positions in the church.

1. In Scripture the leader we would likely call a “pastor” is sometimes called a bishop, an overseer, or a shepherd. Read Acts 20:28 and 1 Peter 5: 1-3. What do these verses say is the function pastors?

2. How might being a pastor of a church be like leading one’s own family? What qualities would be required to be successful at both?

3. What do you think the challenges and potential problems might be if a new convert became a church pastor?

4. Why do you think Paul makes a point, in verse 7, to say the pastor must be well thought of outside the church?

Read verses 8 – 13

5. The terms deacon and elder are often used interchangeably and refer to individuals chosen to assist the pastor with the care of the church members. Read Acts 6: 1-6, which tells us about the first such “helpers” in the early church. What were these men called to do and why were they needed?

6. Women have always played an important role in the Church. Jesus welcomed women and valued their contribution. Just like the men who serve, women are called to a standard of behavior. What does 11 tell us?

Read verses 14 – 16

7. Why did Paul write the instructions in this chapter to Timothy? What is the role of standards of behavior and qualifications for our church leadership in today’s world?

8. The last several lines of this chapter are likely from an early church hymn, quoted here by Paul to emphasize and glory in the wonder of Jesus Christ our Savior. Try your hand at writing a verse below to express your own awe and gratitude.
