

Biblical Leadership: A Study of 1st Timothy  
Lesson 6 “Picking Leaders Part One”

I. Introduction - We are in a series on *1st Timothy*, which is a letter Paul wrote to Timothy in approximately 62 A.D. after he installed him as the pastor of the church in Ephesus.

A. This is personal letter, Paul wrote to mentor Timothy as Timothy took over one of the most significant churches in the 1st century (about 7 years after the revival that started the church). Paul wrote both to speak directly into Timothy’s life and also teach him how to address challenges the church was having (doctrinal, prayer, women, leadership, and how people handled money.)

B. We are called to make spiritual sons like Paul did with Timothy. Replication is the key to saturation.

II. Picking Leaders - Tonight we are going to pick up on a theme from the first two verses we studied about sonship/discipleship. We saw how Paul picked Timothy because he had a good reputation/was faithful in Galatia. Paul then poured his life into Timothy and prepared him to take over the church in Ephesus (though he didn’t know he was doing that). This process of replication helped saturate the Roman Empire with the gospel as Paul was able to leave Ephesus and travel to other places.

A. **1 Timothy 3:1** It’s not wrong to desire to want to be in ministry. This is often a key to discerning our call.

1. **Philippians 2:13** God works in us to will and to do his pleasure.

2.. My story - questioned my call for years because I was afraid of self-appointing myself. I didn’t. My desire for ministry came out of relationship. If have a strong relationship with God, don’t be surprised if you desire to serve/lead.

3. **Bishop** - It’s not a title, it’s a function. **Episkopé**, inspection (for relief); by implication, superintendence; the Christian "episcopate":— office of a "bishop", bishoprick, visitation.

a. **The corresponding verb is episkopeo** is used in **1 Peter 5:2-3**.

b. Timothy needed many bishops in Ephesus because the church had 100,000 people. Needed help overseeing all that was going on.

B. Qualifications of Bishops - We need to remember is these are qualifications not disqualifications. This is important because if we don’t read these verses through a lens of grace no one ever in history would qualify to be a bishop.

1. Why did Paul give all of these qualifications? **Andrew Wommack**

**Commentary** As Paul made his final trip to Jerusalem in *Acts 20-21*, he called all the elders of the Ephesian church together for a conference . During this meeting, he said that after his departure, wolves would come into the church and

seek to destroy the work he had founded **Acts 20:29-30**. Because of this, Paul gave Timothy stringent requirements for the bishops and deacons of the Ephesian church. This was to prevent or limit the damage leaders could do. These qualifications could discourage some who aspire to these offices, but they were mainly for the benefit of the church as a whole.

2. When we read **Revelation 2:2-6**, its apparent it worked because this church had good oversight, sound doctrine, and kept out counterfeit apostles. **The one negative is in all of their structure, they lost the romance. Structure isn't to replace romance, it is designed to enhance it.**

### C. Timothy 3:2-7

1. Blameless - **anepileptos**- not apprehended, that cannot be laid hold of
  - a. This does not mean a person is sinless as that is impossible. The word here means that we are not to have anything present in our life that is nothing presently can be laid hold of that we would be discredited by it and hurt others in consequence. Ex: Current example MB
2. Husband of one wife - There is controversy over this passage because some say a person can't be divorced and in ministry. I think the best understanding is polygamy was big in that culture and many in the early church had multiple wives. Paul was saying leaders needed to be a one woman-man. Fritz Rienecker, in his "Linguistic Key to the Greek New Testament," says that this phrase literally means "a one-woman man."
3. Temperate - means over minded, void of speculative imaginations. Can't assume the worst of everyone and thing.
4. Good behavior - godly lifestyle, walk in the fruit of the spirit.
5. Hospitable - generous toward or fond of guests. Necessary because healthy churches should always have guests in attendance.
6. Able to teach - **didaktikós** - skilled in teaching. This is a difference in the list given to the deacons in **1 Timothy 3:8-13**.
7. Not given to wine - In the original language this doesn't mean they cannot drink, but they are not a drunkard/don't sit at the bar for hours.
8. Not violent - The Greek means smiter, quarrelsome, or contentious.
9. Not greedy for money - need to seek first the kingdom. Doesn't mean they can't be wealthy, just shouldn't be greedy for it. Ex: Solomon
10. Gentle - idea of mild/patient.
11. Not Quarrelsome - KJV is brawler - obtain from fighting.
12. Not covetous - lusting for money/things that don't belong to you (key is to stay full of the spirit - drives out covetousness.
13. Rules his house well and has children in submission because if you can't do that you cannot rule a bigger house. Doesn't mean our kids won't make mistakes  
Ex: Greg Mohr
14. Not a novice because he could get lifted up with pride - ex: Kanye West.

15. Good testimony with those outside the church lest he fall into reproach (defamation) and the snare of the devil (offense). **If a person carries himself poorly they will open themselves up to attacks from the devil/others.**

III. Conclusion - While we got into a lot of the details of qualifications tonight, the big ideas I want you to take with you are

A. Leadership must be replicated in order for the gospel to spread. It's not possible for one person to do everything on a large scale. God wants us to release ministry into the body.

B. The quality of the ministry is more important than the quantity of the ministry which is why Paul put qualifications in place for leaders. These weren't intended to be applied legalistically but as things that characterize godly leadership.

C. Offering Verse - **Proverbs 10:22**

D. Pray Closing Prayer and Call Up Prayer Team