

Biblical Leadership: A Study of 1st Timothy
Lesson 7 “Picking Leaders Part 2”

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 continue what we talked about last week picking leaders. Last week, we looked at the qualifications Paul gave Timothy for how to pick bishops (overseers). Tonight We are going to look at the qualifications for how to pick deacons.

A. Why did Paul (the Apostle of grace) give all these qualifications?

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

3. 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 serve.

B. **1 Timothy 3:8-12**

1. Paul says likewise because he is connecting his thoughts about bishops to those with deacons. T

2. Deacon - **diákonos**, probably from an obsolete δίακω diákō an attendant, i.e.) a waiter (at table or other menial duties); **A Servant**. The main difference between a bishop and deacon is bishops must be able to teach. Deacons do not.

3. Reverent - venerable, honorable in their character - command respect.
4. Not double-tongued = **diligos** - telling a different story. Need to be in private who you are in public.
5. Not given to much 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.
6. 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
7. Holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience - **1 Corinthians 4:1** says we are to steward the miseries of God. The new covenant and the infilling of the spirit are mysteries to those on the outside. We need to hold this faith with a pure/clean conscience (no major inconsistencies in what a person believes and their lifestyle).
8. Must first be tested then let them serve being found blameless - **dokimazo** - to test in order to approve of, promote, and use in a greater way. Not a test to fail them. A test to help them see what is in them so they can step into more responsibility. Test them in little, to give them more.
9. Blameless not sinless. **anegkletos**- that cannot be called into to account, unrepentable, unaccused, Shouldn't be anything in their life that would discredit them before the congregation.
10. Wives must be reverent, not slanderers, faithful in all things - The big idea is a person's family needs to be in order if they are going to serve. If its not, this will hinder their ability to serve well. Ex: if one of our ushers wives is cussing everybody our in the parking lot, that's a hindrance. **Our first ministry is to our family, not the church.**
11. Husband of one wife - There is controversy over this passage because some say a person can't be divorced an 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."
12. Ruling their children/houses well. Doesn't mean the kids can't sin as God gives free will. This is just laying out a general principle if a person isn't doing what they can to pour into the lives of their children and to have their own house in order, they won't do a good job if given more responsibility.

C. **1 Timothy 3:13** Serving well in a little causes us to obtain good standing and great boldness in the faith! **This a key to promotion!**

1. **Acts 6:1-7** The church was starting to really grow so the Apostles enlisted help to reach more people. Appointed 7 deacons over the business of feeding the Jewish and Greek widows.

2. Steven - **Acts 6:8-10** Steven goes on to give a powerful sermon about Jesus before being martyred at the end of *Acts* 7. How did he position himself to be used mightily by the Lord? **Luke 16:10**
3. Phillip - **Acts 8:4-8**
4. Prochorus and Timon later became bishops. Parmesan was martyred under Trajan.
5. We aren't sure what happened with Nicanor.
6. Nicolas started well. He was a convert to Judaism and then converted to Christianity. He did not end well though as he never put down deep roots. The doctrine of the Nicolaitians was one of compromise. This goes to show even when you exercise godly wisdom in selecting a leader, they won't always work out well. Not your fault. Just pray and keep moving forward.

III. Conclusion - The main theme we see in these passages is He who is faithful in little will be made ruler over much. It's not wrong to want more. This is godly as we'll never step into more without godly desire, however, we must be faithful with what we have and where we are before God gives us more. He cares more about the quality of our ministry than the quantity of it.

- A. Offering Verse: **Proverbs 3:9-10**
- B. Call Up Prayer Team
- C. Pray Closing Prayer