

Genuine Selection

(1 Timothy 3:1-7)



Part 3 of 12

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Introduction

¹It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. ²An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. ⁴He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity ⁵(but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), ⁶and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. ⁷And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." (1 Timothy 3:1-7)

1. _____ to Serve (v. 1)

- "It is a trustworthy statement: if any man **aspires** to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he **desires** to do." (1 Timothy 3:1)
- "I exhort the **elders** among you . . . **shepherd** the flock of God among you, exercising **oversight**." (1 Peter 5:1-2)

Overseer:

Elder:

Pastor:

- "We request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who **diligently labor among you**, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction." (1 Thessalonians 5:12)

No man should lead God's people, who does not desire to do so.

- "Thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became **obedient from the heart** to that form of teaching to which you were committed." (Romans 6:17)

2. Pursuing Christ-like Character (v. 2)

- "An overseer, then, must be **above reproach**, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach." (1 Timothy 3:2)
- "Prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God **above reproach** in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world." (Philippians 2:15)

3. Demonstrating Some _____

- "An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, **able to teach**." (1 Timothy 3:2)
- "Holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict." (Titus 1:9)
- "And He gave some . . . as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." (1 Peter 4:10)

When it comes to spiritual leaders, go with character over giftedness every time.

4. Fleeing Unrighteous Character (v. 3)

- "not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money." (1 Timothy 3:3)

Controlling oneself is required in order to command the respect of others.

Gold, Girls, or Glory = Possessions, Purity, or Pride

5. Shepherding the _____ (v. 4-5)

- "He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)." (1 Timothy 3:4-5)
- "A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and **took care of him.**" (Luke 10:33-34)

The life people live in private determines the ministry they will have in public.

6. Moving Toward Maturity (v. 6)

- "and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil." (1 Timothy 3:6)

"In light of this high standard, it is understandable that an elder should not be a recent convert... Many years are usually needed for a man to reach the level of personal and spiritual maturity required of an elder. Moreover, there must be adequate time for others to observe his life and affirm his qualifications. As Paul warned Timothy, those elevated to the position of elder prematurely are highly susceptible to the sin of pride." John MacArthur

7. Establishing a Reputation of _____ (v. 7)

- "And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." (1 Timothy 3:7)

Conclusion

1. Do you select them or do they select you?
2. Use the _____ at the time of selection, or pay the price later.
 - "Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily and thereby share responsibility for the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin." (1 Timothy 5:22)
3. The greater the ministry responsibility; the greater the proven-ness.
4. Select a life of _____ over a life of talent, personality, appearance, or gifts!
5. Ask others who know them best. I.e. spouse, children, employer and neighbors.
6. Look for genuine sanctification and genuine _____.

Application

1. What's the difference between judging someone and honestly evaluating if another should be in a leadership position?
2. What kind of qualities is the world looking for in leadership and how are they different from what Christ desires of leaders?
3. Of the seven major selection criteria above, which one is needed most in other churches? In our church? In your life?
4. What principle from this passage gripped your heart the most, and why?
5. What steps are you going to take—dependent upon the Spirit of God—in order to obey the truths in this passage personally?
6. How will you use this passage in the future when rightly evaluating others you are considering for ministry responsibilities?

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