

## SERMON OUTLINE

In 1 Timothy 3:1-13 & Titus 1:5-9 Paul lists character requirements for those who would hold 2 leadership offices within the church.

- I. The office of elder has specific character requirements.
  - A. 1 overarching requirement.
  - B. 18 positive requirements.
  - C. 9 negative requirements.
  
- II. The office of deacon has specific character requirements.
  - A. 1 overarching requirement.
  - B. 5 positive requirements.
  - C. 3 negative requirements.
  - D. 2 rewards for serving well.

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

**In preparation for Sunday, July 10, 2016**  
**1:5-9**

**Passages: 1 Timothy 3:1-13 & Titus**

Memory Passage: 1 Timothy 3:1, 13

### **DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1 Tim. 3:1-13 & Titus 1:5-9.** Make 2 columns on a piece of paper, heading one “Elder” and one “Deacon.” Next, under the appropriate column, write down every characteristic required of an elder from 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and each characteristic required of a deacon from 1 Timothy 3:8-13 (include in this list the blessings for deacons who serve well).

(b) Next, list any new requirements for elders (i.e. not found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7) you find in Titus 1:5-9. For every repeated requirement, instead of writing it a 2<sup>nd</sup> time, find the corresponding requirement on the 1 Timothy list and write “(Titus)” next to it to notate its repetition.

(c) Finally, circle each characteristic you find required of both elders and deacons. Circle the characteristic on both lists.

(d) Study this list, and write down (1) any questions you have, (2) anything striking or important about the differences between these lists, and (3) anything striking or important about the similarities between these lists.

### **DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1 Tim. 3:1-7.** Why should a man “aspire to” & “desire” the office of overseer,” and why is this task “noble?”

(b) Write a short definition or explanation for each character trait you find in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 (i.e. “respectable” requires a definition while “manage his own household well” requires more of an explanation).

(c) Why do you think these characteristics are important to require of those who would serve as elders?

### **DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Titus 1:5-9.** I will be teaching that Titus 1:6 is better translated “children are faithful” (rather than “children are believers”). What difference would this translation make to our understanding of a man’s responsibility? How might our understanding of the gospel inform our choice of this equally valid translation πιστος (*pistos*)?

(b) Write a short definition or explanation for each character trait you find in Titus 1:5-9 not already covered yesterday.

(c) Why do you think these characteristics are important to require of those who would serve as elders (cf. Titus 1:10ff)?

**DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1 Tim. 3:8-13.** Write a definition or explanation of any requirement for deacons that you have not already written with regard to elders.

(b) Why are deacons not required to be able to teach? Does this mean they are not allowed to teach? Why or why not?

(c) What are the possible meanings of the phrase “husband of one wife,” which is required of both elders and deacons? To which one (there are at least 4!) do you think Paul is referring and why?

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1 Tim. 3:1-13 & Titus 1:5-9.** The ESV translates the Greek word γυναικὸς as “their wives.” This plural Greek word can mean “wives” or “women” depending on the context (the word “their” is added by the ESV translators and does not appear in the Greek). Paul could be giving instruction concerning either deacon’s wives or deaconesses (and deaconesses could mean either [1] deacons who are female, or [2] women assistants to deacons). To which of these 3 options do you think Paul refers, and on what do you base your decision?

(b) How should men be evaluated with regard to these characteristics since we know that no man is perfect in any of these areas? How do we determine who does and does not meet these qualifications?

(c) Are these qualifications evaluated only once, or are they ongoing qualifications for men who serve in these offices?

(d) What consequences could we as a body suffer if we appointed elders & deacons without regard to these qualifications?

**DATE: July 10, 2016****PASSAGES: 1 Timothy 3:1-13 & Titus 1:5-9*****Elders & Deacons: Who Are They?***