



Sunday April 02, 2017
1 Timothy Series
Chapter 3 : Proper Conduct In God's House

We continue our study on 1 Timothy
Brief Review

Lets Read 1 Timothy chapter 3

The Early Church recognized those who served in a local church in two broad categories: as 'bishops' and 'deacons' (Philippians 1:1).

'bishops' was a broad term used for spiritual elders, anyone who provided spiritual oversight and leadership in spiritual matters.

'deacons' was used primarily for those who served in capacity, administrative or organizational areas (Acts 6). However, we know that deacons also served in spiritual ministry as we see in the examples of Stephen and Philip (Acts 6).

Bishop : Anyone Providing Spiritual Leadership

1 Timothy 3:1-7

- 1 This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.
- 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;
- 3 not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;
- 4 one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence
- 5 (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);
- 6 not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.
- 7 Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Vs 1:

"a man", Greek '*i tis*' literally means anyone, whosoever
"desire", Greek means reach out after, long for, covet after
"position of a bishop", Greek it is one word 'episkopē' means Overseer. The word 'episkopos' is translated 'overseers' in Acts 20:28. *"The verb means, properly, to look upon, behold; to inspect, to look after, see to, take care of; and the noun denotes the office of overseeing, inspecting, or looking to."* - Albert Barnes' Notes on the Bible, Albert Barnes (1798-1870). The word "Elder" is used in the New Testament to refer to "Bishops" and those in positions of spiritual leadership (e.g. pastor, prophet, others in the five fold ministry function).

Vs 2-5 explain

Vs 6 : we do not put new people quickly into positions of spiritual leadership for this reason. We let people take time to grow and mature.



Vs 7:

"An elder must also have the respect of people who are not part of the church. Then he will not be criticized by others and be caught in the devil's trap." (Easy to read version, ERV)

This is an important part of being a spiritual leader, of having right and good relations with those outside the church as well.

Deacons : Anyone Who Serves

1 Timothy 3:8-13

8 Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for

money,

9 holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.

10 But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless.

11 Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.

12 Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

"deacon" Greek 'attendant, waiter' anyone serving in any capacity in the local church.

Vs 9: Once again Paul repeats the importance of holding faith with a good conscience

Vs 10: we first prove, test, examine those desiring to serve by giving them simple and small things to do and if we see them do it well, sincerely, faithfully, we then recognize them, putting them in a place of leadership/responsibility

Vs 11-12 explain

Vs 13: When someone serves well as a deacon, they obtain a good standing and great boldness in the faith. They are in a place of stature and strength, before God and man.

Proper Conduct In God's House

1 Timothy 3:14-15

14 These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly;

15 but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Paul's intent in writing this is to show us that there is a proper way to conduct ourselves in the house of God. While he specifically addresses bishops and deacons, this will apply to all of us.

The local church is

- ✓ the house of God : the family of God.
- ✓ the church of the living God : a community of 'called out' ones. The 'ekklesia' = called out to a specific purpose
- ✓ the pillar and ground of truth : the upholder and ground (foundation) of truth in the world



The Mystery of Godliness Now Revealed

1 Timothy 3:16

16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

Message Bible

Vs 16: This Christian life is a great mystery, far exceeding our understanding, but some things are clear enough: He appeared in a human body, was proved right by the invisible Spirit, was seen by angels. He was proclaimed among all kinds of peoples, believed in all over the world, taken up into heavenly glory.

We are certain of this and this is what we proclaim.