## Lesson 21

### The Qualifications of Faithful Leaders

### 1 Timothy 3

### Day One: Qualifications of Faithful Elders - Part One (vs. 1-7)

1. What encouraged or challenged you from last week’s lesson or lecture?
2. From 1 Peter 5:1–3 and Mark 10:42–45, describe the character and leadership style that are necessary qualifications for a church leader.
3. In the Greek, “aspire” is an external action that means reaching out for something, and “desire” is an internal motive that indicates a strong passion. Why is it important for a pastor, overseer, or elder to both aspire to and desire the position?

	1. Why is an immoderate or exaggerated desire to become a church leader an automatic disqualifier?
4. What does it mean for a man to be “above reproach?”
	1. Why is this characteristic the overarching qualification for church leadership?
5. In Greek, the literal rendering of the phrase “husband of one wife” is “a one-woman man.” What is the difference between the two?

	1. Do you think this qualification is directed at marital status or sexual purity? Explain your answer with Scripture.
6. Using a dictionary, define the following qualifications for an elder.
	1. temperate
	2. prudent
	3. respectable
	4. hospitable

### Day Two: Qualifications of Faithful Elders - Part Two (vs. 1-7)

1. The ability to teach is the only qualification listed in this passage related to spiritual giftedness and ability. According to 2 Timothy 2:15 and Titus 1:9, what is the purpose of this qualification?
2. Why is not being addicted to wine is an important aspect of being a church leader? See also Proverbs 31:4 and 1 Corinthians 6:12.
3. Using a dictionary, define the following additional qualifications for an elder:
	1. not pugnacious
	2. gentle
	3. peaceable
	4. Why do you think these traits follow the qualification of not being addicted to wine?
4. What sins or wrong attitudes are associated with the love of money? See 1 Timothy 6:10, Matthew 6:24, 1 John 2:15 and Hebrews 13:5.
5. What are some indications of a well-managed household?
6. What would a new convert lack in terms of being an effective leader?
7. Why is a good reputation outside of the church an essential qualification for church leadership?

### Day Three: Qualifications of Faithful Deacons - Part One (vs. 8-13)

1. What does the word “likewise” indicate in verses 8 and 11?
2. Using a dictionary, define the following terms that relate to the qualifications for a deacon:
	1. dignity
	2. double-tongued
	3. sordid gain
3. What is the mystery of faith that Paul refers to several times in his letters? See also Romans 16:25–26, Ephesians 3:8–10, and Colossians 2:2.
4. What does it mean to have faith with a clear conscience? See Titus 1:15 and Hebrews 10:22.

### Day Four: Qualifications of Faithful Deacons - Part Two (vs. 8-13)

1. From verse 11, what are the four qualifications for a woman serving the church? Why are these important?
2. From verse 12, what three things characterize a deacon’s family life?
3. What are the rewards for serving well as a deacon or deaconess in the church?
4. What is the relationship between the qualifications for church leadership and the fruit of the Spirit? See Galatians 5:21–22.

	1. How can one use these qualifications to measure one’s Christian walk?
5. In your life, what qualifications for leadership would be affirmed under examination?

	1. What qualifications for leadership could not be affirmed under examination?

### Day Five: Faithful to Our Common Confession (vs. 14-16)

1. In your own words, summarize Paul’s purpose for writing Timothy.
2. How does Paul describe the church in verse 15? How is this an apt description? (See Matthew 16:13–20 and Colossians 1:18.)
3. About whom is the common confession made?
4. What needs to change in your life as a result of what God has shown you through this lesson?

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