



TRAITS OF A GODLY LEADER

BIG IDEA: We are all called to set an example to those inside and outside the church.

DATE: Wednesday, October 8 and Sunday, October 12, 2025

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 3:1-13

OPENING QUESTION

Reflect on the different bosses you have had throughout your life. *What qualities did the best bosses have? What qualities did the worst bosses have?*

Today we are going to look at the qualities needed in a godly leader. What do you think are the three most important qualities for a church leader to possess? Why?

SETTING THE STAGE

Paul offers essential qualifications for the offices of the church. Most of these qualifications did not align with the cultural norms of his day. This was intentional, for Paul wanted to stress to Timothy that the Christian life does not align with the norms of secular society but with the truth of Christ. The church is to be the stabilizing force of God's truth and grace in the world. It must share in community life, grounded in the mystery of Christ, and thereby serve as a witness to the world. After all, what the world knows of God will be based on the life and witness of His people.

STUDY THE BIBLE

1 Timothy 3:1-13 (NLT)

This is a trustworthy saying: "If someone aspires to be a church leader, he desires an honorable position." ²So a church leader must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exercise self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must be able to teach. ³He must not be a heavy drinker or be violent. He must be gentle, not quarrelsome, and not love money. ⁴He must manage his own family well, having children who respect and obey him. ⁵For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church?

⁶A church leader must not be a new believer, because he might become proud, and the devil would cause him to fall. ⁷Also, people outside the church must speak well of him so that he will not be disgraced and fall into the devil's trap.

⁸ In the same way, deacons must be well respected and have integrity. They must not be heavy drinkers or dishonest with money. ⁹ They must be committed to the mystery of the faith now revealed and must live with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ Before they are appointed as deacons, let them be closely examined. If they pass the test, then let them serve as deacons. ¹¹ In the same way, their wives must be respected and must not slander others. They must exercise self-control and be faithful in everything they do. ¹² A deacon must be faithful to his wife, and he must manage his children and household well. ¹³ Those who do well as deacons will be rewarded with respect from others and will have increased confidence in their faith in Christ Jesus.

DISCUSSION

READ: 1 Timothy 3:1-5

What seven positive qualities does a Pastor need to be mature in?

Paul next adds five negative qualities that aspiring leaders are to avoid – many of which were found in the false teachers in the church. What are those five qualities that those seeking Christian maturity must avoid?

READ: 1 Timothy 3:6-7

The word *novice* or *new believer* in this passage derives from the Greek word for “newly planted.” What is the risk of placing a new believer in an important leadership role?

In addition to spiritual maturity and healthy relationships, it was essential that prospective leaders had a “good testimony,” or good reputation, with those outside the church. Given Paul’s overarching mission to the Gentiles, why was it so important for a church leader to have a good reputation among people outside the church?

READ: 1 Timothy 3:8-13

Paul now provides positive and negative qualifications for deacons (think LifeGroup Leaders). What is the one positive quality that they must possess? What three negative qualities are they to avoid? How do these compare to the qualifications for pastors/leaders in verses 2-4?

The Greek word translated “their wives” can refer to the wives of deacons serving with them or women serving as deacons. What qualifications does Paul say they must have?

The truth is we are *all* ambassadors for Christ (inside and outside the home) and should aspire to these qualities. Which of these qualities do *you* need to further develop in your life? What practical steps will you take to grow in these areas?

RESPONSE

Pray for our pastors, pastoral and ministry staff, and your LifeGroup Leaders. Pray for their families and for protection from the enemy. Brainstorm tangible ways you can bless their faithfulness and encourage them. Also pray for wisdom for our Pastor Search Team, Advisory Team and for God to guide us to our new Lead Pastor. May God begin preparing his heart for Chets even now.

Excerpted from “1 & 2 Timothy & Titus: The Way to Live and Lead for Christ” by Dr. David Jeremiah.