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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**1 Timothy 3:1-7**  
**Lesson #8**  
**Elder Profile**  
**06/11/2023**

1

*1 Timothy 1*

“<sup>3</sup> As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus, in order that you may instruct certain men not to teach **strange** doctrines, <sup>4</sup> nor to pay attention to **myths** and endless **genealogies**, which give rise to mere **speculation** (*mysteries*) rather than furthering the **administration** (*stewardship*) of God which is by **faith**. <sup>5</sup> But the goal (*end*) of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. . . . <sup>8</sup> But we know that the Law is good, **if one uses it lawfully**,”

**The teaching of sound theology is a BIG ISSUE.**


2

**Spiritual “Headship” is about:**

- 1. Responsibility** more than rights.
- 2. Self sacrifice** more than being served.
- 3. Inner disposition** guiding wisdom outward rules & roles.

**Elders (shepherds) in the church must possess these characteristics**

**Plus:**



2


3

*1 Timothy 3*

“<sup>1</sup> It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine (**honorable**) work he desires to do.”

**Spiritual leaders in the church should:**

- 1. View spiritual leadership as an honorable position.**
  - Oversight can be desired but is not self appointed.
  - **Apostles are called by God, others are called by the church (?)**



4

*1 Timothy 3*

“<sup>2</sup> An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup> not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money.”

**Spiritual leaders in the church should:**

- 2. Have a solid reputation in key areas:**
  - disciplined passions,
  - social sensitivity,
  - skilled in teaching,
  - peacemaking,
  - freedom from chasing worldly security.

5

*1 Timothy 3*

“<sup>4</sup> He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity <sup>5</sup> (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?);”

**Spiritual leaders in the church should:**

- 3. Be able to manage** people in building a diverse spiritual family.
- 4. Be a model** through their life & household.
- 5. Recognize that they are stewards** of God’s household.

6

*1 Timothy 3*

“6 and not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. 7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”

*Spiritual leaders in the church should:*

- 6. Be **experienced**, yet teachable, secure, and humble.
- 7. Have a good **reputation / witness** with the outside community.

7

*Notice some things that are implied.*

- **Male leadership.**
- **Plurality of leaders.**

(Acts 11:30, 14:23, 20:17, 1 Tim.4:14, 1 Pet.5:1)

*Note what is not emphasized.*

- **Ministry vision issues.**
- **Doctrinal issues.**

(mentioned in Titus 1:9)



8

*The teaching of sound theology is a BIG ISSUE.*

*1 Timothy 1*

“3 As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus, in order that you may instruct certain men not to teach **strange** doctrines, 4 nor to pay attention to **myths** and endless **genealogies**, which give rise to mere **speculation** (mysteries) rather than furthering the **administration** (stewardship) of God which is by **faith**. 5 But the goal (end) of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. . . . 8 But we know that the Law is good, **if one uses it lawfully,**”

9

*You might not be ready for a ministry leadership position if:*

- You feel **pressured** to do it.
- You love the Bible **more than** you love those that God loves.
- You link your position to **your peace**.
- You have **gifts but no** preparation, experience, or proven character.
- You see it as your **personal empire or fiefdom**.
- You feel called by God and therefore **entitled**.

10

*Some common mistakes made by spiritual leaders.*

*1 Peter 5:2*

“shepherd the flock of God **among you**, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.”

- **Bibliolatry - Bible worship.**
- **Religiosity - Position worship**
- **New Age - Private experience.**

*Matthew 23:3*

“therefore all that they (Pharisees) tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things, and do not do them.”

*disengaged*

11

*Some common mistakes made by spiritual leaders.*

*1 Peter 5:2*

“shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising **oversight** not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.”

*disengaged irresponsible*

- **Expect to be served rather than serve.**
- **Like the position but not the responsibility.**
- **Divisive not peacemakers.**

12

**Some common mistakes made by spiritual leaders.**

1 Peter 5:2

“shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.”

disengaged  
irresponsible  
reluctant

- They feel drafted or pressured to serve.
- They are guided by something other than God.

13

**Some common mistakes made by spiritual leaders.**

1 Peter 5:2

“shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.”

disengaged  
irresponsible  
reluctant  
selfish

- They use their position for material, social, or psychological gain.

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**Some common mistakes made by spiritual leaders.**

1 Peter 5:2

“shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.”

disengaged  
irresponsible  
reluctant  
selfish  
abusive

- They view the flock as “their” subjects.

15

**Some common mistakes made by spiritual leaders.**

1 Peter 5:2

“shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.”

disengaged  
irresponsible  
reluctant  
selfish  
abusive  
hypocritical

- They treat grace, truth, and love as nouns, not verbs.

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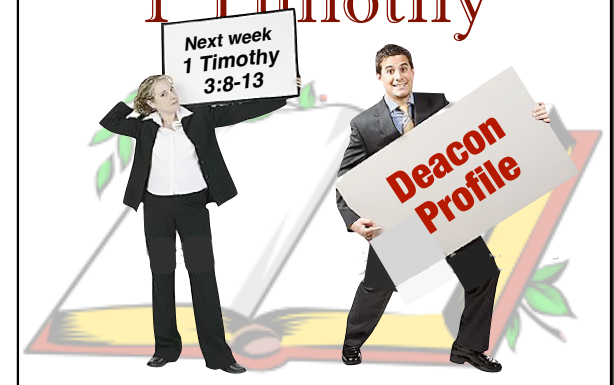
**An elder should display:**

disciplined **conduct**  
reflecting mature **character**  
with passionate **commitment**  
and proven **competence**  
with **social & teaching skills**

for equipping **God's people to unite**  
in **building the Body of Christ.**

17

**1 Timothy**



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