

Selecting Spiritual Overseers

Part 1: Analyzing their Activity

1 Timothy 3:1,2

Introduction:

- Spiritual Overseer – anyone who is a spiritual l_____ of a group within the church
 1. 1 Tim 3:1-6 gives the qualifications that they m_____ meet.
 2. Every believer s_____ have many of these qualities.
- Today we will look at five qualifications in verse 2 that must characterize an overseer's activity.
 1. Strive to have these qualities in your Christian walk
 2. Require spiritual leaders to have these qualities

Careful Conduct

- This is translated as *blameless* or *above reproach*.
 1. This does not mean to be without s_____, otherwise no one would qualify. This is what characterizes the conduct.
 2. This means that a person does not put himself in a p_____ to be charged with wrong-doing.
 - a. People cannot see our m_____
 - b. People often interpret our motives from what they see (e.g. a married person who is often alone with the opposite sex; handling other's money with no accountability)
- Be w_____ in how you conduct yourself
 1. All believers SHOULD strive to do this.
 2. All spiritual leaders MUST do this.

Self-Disciplined

- This is translated as *sober-minded, temperate, or self-controlled*
 1. The word l_____ means, *having no wine*
 2. Paul is speaking meta_____ since verse 3 mentions one's relation to wine. It shows that the person has discipline.
- Many people are self-disciplined in secular things (e.g. exercise, eating healthy, getting up) but Paul is talking about s_____ things.
 1. G_____
 2. God's w_____ (reading and studying)
 3. Looking for opportunities to s_____ Christ
 4. P_____ for others

5. B_____ other Christians up

- All believers SHOULD strive to be spiritually self-disciplined. All spiritual leaders MUST be spiritually self-disciplined.

Sound Mind

- This word has a wide variety of translations: *prudent, sober, self-controlled, live wisely*.
 1. The Greek word Paul used only appears in 1_____ of character traits (Titus 1:8; 2:2,5 and here). Context cannot help us see the exact meaning.
 2. The verb form of the Greek word is used 6 times and clearly refers to s_____ thinking in Mk 5:15; Lk 8:35; Rom 12:3).
- This is not talking about soundness from a psychiatric viewpoint but from a s_____ viewpoint.
 1. Derive your self-worth from what God says not from what the world says.
 - a. Believers are God's work of a _____ (Eph 2:10)
 - b. We are created to do what the world cannot do – good w_____ (this requires f_____ - Heb 11:6)
 2. Wash the junk that might fill your mind and affect your conduct by r_____ it with God's word (Rom 12:2).
- All believers SHOULD strive to have a spiritually sound mind, but all spiritual leaders MUST have this.

Exemplary Life

- This is translated with similar words – *respectable, of good behavior, having a good reputation*. Living in such a way that sets a g_____ example.
 1. Effective parenting is not, *Do as I say, not as I do*. Children learn by example – *Values are c_____, rather than taught*.
 2. In what things can you say, *follow my example?* (honesty, showing respect, handling conflict, etc.)
- We all SHOULD be imitators of C_____ so that we can say, *imitate me as I am an imitator of Christ* (1 Cor 11:1), but all spiritual leaders MUST be imitators of Christ.

Friendly

- Most versions translate the word Paul used as *hospitable*.
 1. The word literally means, f_____ to strangers.

- a. The word originally applied only to strangers, welcoming the stranger and treating him as an honored guest.
 - b. The word came to be applied to all people.
2. Rom 13:13 commands all believers to practice hospitality
- a. A very powerful way is to invite people into your home and making them feel at home.
 - b. You can practice this every Sunday by welcoming those who enter the church building.
 - c. Treating someone to a meal, eating with them and talking with them.
- Every believer SHOULD strive to be hospitable, but every spiritual leader MUST be hospitable.

Conclusion:

- The activity of anyone who desires to fill a leadership position in the church (e.g. pastor, assistant pastor, Bible Hour supervisor, youth leader, a functioning elder), MUST be one who:
1. Conducts himself carefully so as not to put himself in a position to be a part of wrong-doing;
 2. Is spiritually self-disciplined;
 3. Gets his sensibility from God's word.
 4. Lives in such a way that he can say, *follow my example because I imitate Christ.*
 5. Is friendly toward everyone.
- The activity of every believer SHOULD be the same. What do you need to work on? What will you work on?