

Selecting Spiritual Overseers
Part 2: Analyzing their Morality
1 Timothy 3:2,3

Introduction - Today we will look at four issues of morality.

1. Every believer SHOULD attain these moral standards.
2. Every spiritual leader or anyone who seeks a spiritual leadership position MUST have attained these standards.

The issue of sexuality (2)

The husband of one wife

- Does this mean that a spiritual leader must be married? - Both Paul and Timothy were spiritual leaders but they were s_____.
● Does this mean that a spiritual leader cannot be divorced?
 1. Some say that divorce does not dissolve marriage in God's sight and so, if a divorced man remarries, he becomes the husband of ____ wives.
 2. But what if a divorced man does not remarry? Is not he still the husband of one wife?
 3. What if a man loses his virginity while single and marries someone else, is he disqualified?
 4. What if a man got divorced b_____ he became a Christian?
 5. FACT – this wording says nothing about divorce or remarriage.
- Does this mean that a spiritual leader must have the philosophy and practice of being a one-woman kind of man?
 1. In the Greek language, the word used for *wife* is the same word used for *woman*. Greeks distinguished between the two by placing the word “the” before the word if they meant *wife* or leaving it off if they meant *woman*. The same goes for the word *h*_____ and *man*.
 2. In this phrase, there is no _____ before any of the two words. So, it should be translated *a one-woman man*. This is talking about a spiritual leader's ph_____ and practice when it comes to sexuality.
 - a. Anyone who has the philosophy or practice that h_____sexuality is okay is disqualified.

- b. Anyone who has the philosophy or practice that s_____ is to be reserved for marriage between one man and one woman fulfills this standard.
- Every believer SHOULD have the philosophy and practice that sex is to be reserved for marriage between one man and one woman but a spiritual leader MUST have this philosophy and practice.

The issue of alcohol (3)

not addicted to wine

- The Greek word, translated addicted to wine, pictures a person with wine always beside him.
 1. It is not a prohibition against the u_____ of alcohol – this was what the Jewish, Roman, and Greek culture had to drink because the water was unsafe to drink.
 2. It is a prohibition against the a_____ of alcohol – Jews tended to drink responsibly, but Greeks and Romans got drunk, especially at pagan feasts.
- No believer should resign themselves to addiction to alcohol or d_____.
 1. If a believer is addicted, he or she must strive to overcome it.
 - a. For most, overcoming addiction to alcohol or drugs is a s_____.
 - b. As long as the struggle exists, you have to say that you are still addicted.
 2. Once there is no struggle, you are no longer addicted.
 - a. Alcoholics Anonymous teaches that once an alcoholic, a_____ an alcoholic.
 - b. The Bible teaches that our identity is not tied to our struggles, but to C_____ (1 Cor 6:9-11)
- A spiritual leader
 1. Is not disqualified by an alcoholic or drug-addicted p_____.
 2. MUST not s_____ with such addiction

The issue of relationships (3)

not a violent person, but gentle and peaceable

- No believer should be violent, but should be characterized by gentleness (kindness) and peace (maintaining h_____ with others)

1. Have churches split over music or programs or leadership? In reality, churches split because of wrong a _____.
2. Can believers from different political philosophies be gentle and peaceable toward one another?
 - a. The Bible does not tell us that one form of government is better than another. What form of government did God set up for Israel? – a m_____ (but they asked for this kind – 1 Samuel 8:4-10).
 - b. God has left it up to humanity to figure out what form of government works best.
 - c. Open dialogue that is gentle and peaceable will keep people from different political viewpoints in h_____. (Christians must distinguish between what is opinion and what is sin).

●All believers SHOULD be peaceable and gentle, but every spiritual leader MUST be this way.

The issue of money (3)

not a lover of money

●This refers to a strong emotional attachment to money. Would any of the following qualify?

1. You look forward to your paycheck each week.
2. You found out that you won \$1000, and you start dancing.
3. You drive a new car.
4. You live in a 2500 + square foot home.

●Jesus warned against money becoming our m_____ (Matt 6:24).

1. It will cause us to h_____ anything or anyone that comes into conflict with it, even G_____!
2. Money must become our s_____.
 - a. We must use it wisely under the l_____ of Jesus.
 - b. Apply the principles of Financial Peace University.

●No believer SHOULD be a lover of money. But every spiritual leader MUST not be a lover of money.

Conclusion:

1. How are you doing in the area of morality?
2. Which ones do you need to work on?
3. Which ones will you work on this week?