



## 1 Timothy 3

### Supporting God's Truth

## Order in God's Church

- All things must be done properly and in an orderly way (1 Corinthians 14:40).
- I have written so that you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15).

## The Head of the Church: Jesus

- He [Christ] is also the head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything (Col. 1:18).
- And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and made Him head over all things to the church (Eph. 1:22).

## Outline of 1 Timothy

- I. Directions for the Administration of the Church (ch.1)
- II. Directions with Respect to Public Worship (ch. 2)
- III. Directions with Respect to the Institution of the Offices (ch. 3)
- IV. Directions with Respect to Apostasy (ch. 4)
- V. Directions with Respect to Certain Definite Groups and Individuals (chs. 5-6)

## The Offices of the Church

- A. Qualifications of the Overseers (3:1-7)
- B. Qualifications of the Deacons (3:8-10, 12-13)
- C. Qualifications of the Women (3:11)
- D. Reasons for Writing (3:12-16)

## The Office of Overseer (3:1)

- Overseer (bishop) = Greek *episkopos*
- Elder = Greek *presbuteros*
- These are apparently terms for the same office, emphasizing different roles.
- Bible students have come to this conclusion from studying the parallel passage in Titus 1 as well as 1 Peter 5 and Acts 20.

## Overseer / Elder / Pastor

- Elders (Titus 1:5) = Overseers (1:7)
- 1 Peter 5:1-2 tells elders to “shepherd [pastor] the flock of God . . . , exercising oversight.”
- Acts 20—same group of men = elders (v.17) and overseers (v.28) & they are to “shepherd [pastor] the church of God” (v.28).

## Different Words for “Reproach”

- “must be above reproach” (imperative)
- 1 Tim 3:2—“above reproach”—*anepileptos* = unrebukable; nothing to lay hold of
- 1 Tim 3:7—“not fall into reproach”—*oneidismos* = not defamed, cast in his teeth
- 1 Tim 3:10—“beyond reproach”—*anegkletus* = nothing laid to one’s charge as a result of an investigation; used of deacons in 1 Tim. 3 and of elders in Titus 1:6-7

## One-Woman Man

- “the husband (*aneer*) of one wife”
- not “a person of one mate”
- implied qualification: he must be a MALE; Greek adjectives which follow are all masculine.
- not a divorced man (See handout.)

## Other Family Qualities

- Managing his household well (1 Tim. 3:4)
- Having faithful, respectful, obedient children who are not wild or rebellious (Titus 1:6; 1 Tim. 3:4)
- Practicing hospitality (Titus 1:8)
- Implication: he is married and has children who are old enough to show respect, etc.

## Importance of Family Life

- God established the family before any other human institution. It’s the foundation of society.
- How a man manages his home tells much about his character.
- His character should be the same in private and in public.

## Able to Teach (3:2)

- Teaching is part of the job.
- It includes accurate instruction in God’s truth, encouraging people to obey God, and recognizing and refuting false teaching.
- How will the people grow if they don’t receive good teaching?

## Not a New Convert (3:6)

- Give him a chance to prove that his conversion is genuine.
- Give him time to grow spiritually and gain knowledge of God's word.
- Don't tempt him to be conceited & imitate Satan.

## Qualifications of Deacons

- *diakonos* = servant, deacon
- Worthy of respect (3:8)
- Not hypocrites (3:8)
- Not alcoholics (3:8)
- Not greedy for money (3:8)

## Qualifications of Deacons

- Following God's truth with a clear conscience (3:9)
- Proved to be above reproach (blameless) (3:10)
- One-woman men (3:12)
- Good managers of their children & households (3:12)
- Confident (3:13)

## Differences in Qualifications

- List for overseers is much more extensive.
- Deacons don't have to be able to teach or shepherd the church.
- Deacons could be younger men (if they've proved themselves blameless).

## Qualifications of Females

- Worthy of respect (dignified)
- Not gossips
- Self-controlled
- Faithful in all things (2:11)

## Who Are These Women?

- The Greek word for “deacon” means *servant*, but it’s not used here.
- The word that is used—*gynē*—can mean woman or wife.
- The women must be ministering to others in the church.
- They could be assisting the deacons in areas where a woman’s touch is needed.

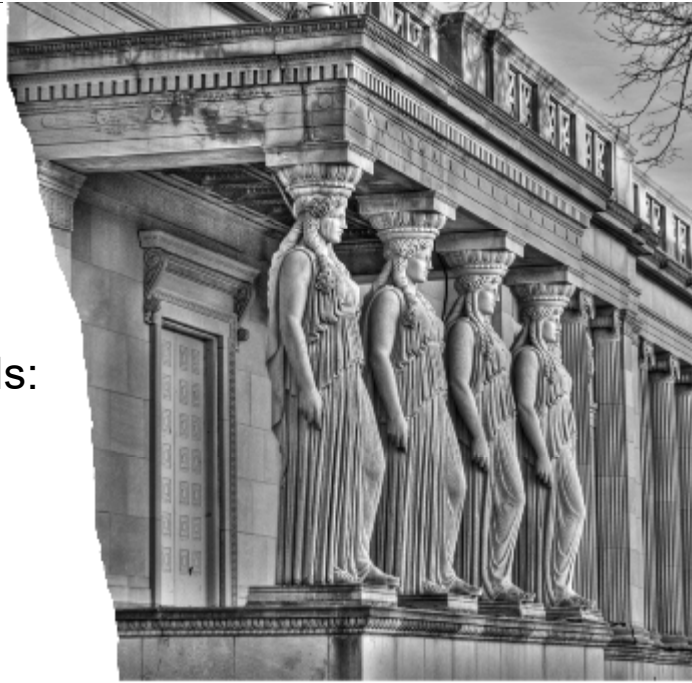
## About the Church (3:14-15)

- The church is people, not a building.
- There is a right way & a wrong way to conduct yourself in the church of God.
- The church is compared to a household (like an extended family).
- The church is the pillar & foundation of the truth.



Temple of Diana, Ephesus

Caryatids:  
Female  
Pillars



Telamon or Atlas:  
Male Pillar

Believers support God's truth by

- Hearing and heeding it (Matt. 13:9).
- Handling it rightly (2 Tim. 2:15).
- Hiding it in their heart (Ps. 119:11).
- Holding it forth as the Word of Life (Phil. 2:16).
- See handout on "What is a Church?"

The Common Confession (3:16)

- All speaking the same thing
- A confession of faith, possibly recited or sung as a hymn
- A mystery in the NT = a divine truth once hidden but now revealed in the gospel. It's hidden from the world, but open and precious to believers.

## The Common Confession (3:16)

Revealed in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit,

Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations,

Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory