

Subject: *Qualifications of Church Leaders, Part 2*

Scripture: *1 Timothy 3:1-7*

THE ROLE OF A PASTOR

The Bible uses three interchangeable words to describe the role of pastor:

- Bishop – describes the pastor's management
1 Peter 5:2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof.
- Elder – describes the pastor's spiritual maturity
He must be a mature Christian, not a new convert
- Pastor – describes the pastor's ministry
He is to lead, feed, and protect God's people.
- The pastor must be called by God (a God-given desire). Any man who is not called will be miserable in the ministry, but if you are called to it, you will be miserable doing anything else.

THE REQUIREMENTS OF A PASTOR

There are 16 requirements found in 1 Timothy 3:2-7.

Vs. 2 - blameless – not sinless, but he is not a stumbling block. No one can blame him for a life that contradicts the message he preaches. He practices what he preaches.

Vs. 2 – husband of one wife – (lit. a one-woman man) – this doesn't mean he has to be married, but if he is married, he must be deeply committed and faithful to one wife.

Vs. 2 – vigilant – watchful, alert for himself and his people

Vs. 2 – sober – sober-minded; serious about spiritual matters; clear thinking

Vs. 2 – of good behavior – respectable, honorable (literally, organized, orderly)

Vs. 2 – given to hospitality – generous, friendly (literally, one who loves strangers)

Vs. 2 – apt to teach – this is the only qualification to do with what he does

Vs. 3 – not given to wine – not attending wild drinking parties; in New Testament times they drank wine, but it was diluted with water; in our day, there is no need for wine and we should completely abstain from any kind of alcohol.

Vs. 3 – no striker – not violent, but mild-mannered; he should not be violent with his actions or his words

Vs. 3 – not greedy of filthy lucre – he should not love money

Vs. 3 – patient – gentle

Vs. 3 – not a brawler – not one to argue or quarrel

2 Timothy 2:24-25 ²⁴ *And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,* ²⁵ *In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.*

Vs. 3 – not covetous – not greedy for financial or material things

Vs. 4 – one that ruleth well his own house – rule means manage. Why do the pastor's kids misbehave? They hang around the deacons' kids. If a man can't take care of his own family he can't take care of God's family. It is said that a pastor and his family live in a glass house. That's the way it should be.

Vs. 6 – not a novice – not a new Christian; a reason for this qualification is that he could be lifted up with pride and fall into condemnation just like Satan (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28).

Vs. 7 – must have a good report of them which are without – He must have a good testimony in the community. That includes paying his bills and being a good neighbor.

A man must meet these requirements before he becomes a pastor, and he must maintain these requirements as long as he is a pastor. Some of the requirements have to do with his personal life. Some have to do with his family life. And some have to do with his public life.

Only one of them has to do with what he does. Most of them deal with who he is, that is, his character. The pastor's greatest ministry is his personal example. People would rather see a sermon than hear one. God doesn't expect a pastor to be a perfect example, but he should be a worthy example.

Would you hire someone to do landscaping if his own yard looked like a hay field? Would you want someone as a fitness trainer who is 100 pounds overweight? What would you think of a dentist who had rotten and missing teeth?

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PASTOR

What does God expect a pastor to do?

- Prayer and ministry of the Word

Acts 6:4 *But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.*

1 Timothy 4:16 *Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.*

2 Timothy 4:2 *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

- Training and equipping

Ephesians 4:11-12 ¹¹ *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;* ¹² *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*

- Leading by example

1 Peter 5:3 *Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.*

- Administrating (overseeing) – Planning, organizing, delegating to make sure all things are done that God wants done and to see that they are done well.
- Caring for those in need (sickness, death, counseling)
- Evangelizing

2 Timothy 4:5 *But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.*

There's a question Paul asked and I often ask: "Who is sufficient for these things?" Only by God's grace can we live and serve in a way that pleases Him. **1 Corinthians 15:10** *But by the grace of God I am what I am.*

THE REWARDS OF A PASTOR

Some rewards are now and some are later. Just to know you are doing what God wants you to do and that God is using you is reward enough. **Hebrews 13:17** *Obey them that have the rule over you (lead you), and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.* Some rewards are later. **1 Corinthians 4:1-5** ¹ *Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.* ² *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.* ³ *But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.* ⁴ *For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.* ⁵ *Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.*