

I. The Church as the Household of God (3:4-5, 15; Titus 1:7)

- A. Family and church are parallel in the Old Testament
- B. The New Testament church continues as a family through adoption (Gal 4:4-7; Rom 8:14-17)
- C. Church leaders must be good family leaders (3:4-5)

II. The Elder or Deacon as Husband

- A. “The husband of one wife” means biblical fidelity in marriage (3:2, 12; Titus 1:6; Eph 5:22-33)
- B. The character of the deacon’s wife: dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things (3:11)

III. The Elder or Deacon as Father

- A. The father as household manager (3:4-5; 5:17; 1 Thes 5:12-13)
- B. The father as household caretaker (3:5; Luke 10:34-35)
- C. The character of children reflects their father (3:4; Gen 5:3; Titus 1:6)

“This argument, drawn from the less to the greater, is in itself manifest, that he who is unfit for governing a family will be altogether unable to govern a people. Besides that it is evident that he is destitute of the virtues necessary for that purpose, what authority will he have over the people, seeing that his own house makes him contemptible?” —John Calvin

“As in the home, so in the church, for both spheres are to reflect God’s creative design and are dignified by Christ. The church, made up largely of families, is to be conducted by the same principles that are to govern the home. For the church is ‘God’s household’ (1 Tim 3:15), so that the one who does not manage his own household well should not preside over God’s as an overseer or deacon (1 Tim 3:5, 12; Tit 1:6).”—Andreas Kostenberger

“The correct sense here is not quantitative but *qualitative*. The man is truly a one-woman man. There are no other women in his life. He is totally faithful. He does not flirt. There are no dalliances.” —R. Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell

“‘Dignity’ also describes the way the father relates to his children: he treats them like people made in the very image of God, and therefore he promotes a relationship of mutual respect. This means being fair, consistent, sympathetic, and merciful. A father who treats his children respectfully will earn their respect. By contrast, a man whose angry temper and inconsistent discipline exasperates his children and exacerbates their rebellion is not qualified to serve as a spiritual father in the church.” —Philip Ryken

Reflection Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

1. What is the relationship between the family and the church?
2. Why is it necessary for church leaders to be good leaders of their families?
3. Who do you look to as a role-model of a godly husband? A godly father?
4. What can you learn about family life from the example of others in the church?