



Working it out

1. Why do you think it is so important for elders/shepherds/overseers to be selected on the basis of character and not necessarily giftedness, skills, personality, or experience?

What can happen in a church when leaders are selected who aren't mature in Christ?

2. In view of these specific biblical criteria for selecting elders/shepherds/overseers, in what practical way can we implement this important principle as a church?
3. Since these qualities demonstrate what it looks like to be mature in Christ and therefore apply to every believer, which of these qualities are demonstrating maturity in Christ in your life?

Which qualities demonstrate a lack of maturity in your life?

What specific steps could you take to begin to grow in these areas?

4. How are you doing at living out the life lessons? Which one do you need to work on?

What step can you take to begin to work on that life lesson?



Praying Through

1. Pray for the specific ways that you need to grow as the result of this study.
2. As we continue the Assess Church Health stage of IPM's process, ask the Lord to give the Transition Team insight into His will and direction for our church.
3. Ask the Lord to help us as a church to discover His will and to grow through the journey and not just focus on the destination of finding our long-term pastor.



A Leader's Character

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach....

1 Timothy 3:1-2

A. Identifying the NT church leaders

Acts 20:17-18, 28-29; 1 Peter 5:1-3

1. _____ highlights spiritual maturity & example
2. _____ highlights equipping role
3. _____ highlights their leadership & giving direction

B. Identifying the character of church leaders

1 Timothy 3:1-7 (see also Titus 1:5-9)

1. *Above reproach* (a man with a good reputation),
2. *the husband of one wife* (morally pure),
3. *sober-minded* (balanced in words and action),
4. *sensible* (wise and humble),
5. *respectable* (a good role model),

6. *hospitable* (unselfish and generous),
7. *an able teacher* (a capacity to communicate sensitively),
8. *not addicted to wine* (not addicted to any substances),
9. *not a bully* (not abusive),
10. *gentle* (sensitive, loving, and kind),
11. *not quarrelsome* (not argumentative and divisive),
12. *not greedy* (not materialistic),
13. *manages his own household competently* (good husband/father),
14. *not be a recent convert* (a seasoned Christian), and
15. *a good reputation with outsiders* (a good testimony in the community at large).

LIFE LESSONS:

1. _____ your heart
2. Never stop _____
3. _____ Christ & His mission

Reflection – Discussion – Application



Warming up

What are some of the qualifications for your current job?



Digging In

1. Compare the list of qualifications in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. How are they the same?

How do they differ?
2. What other scriptures come to mind for each of the qualities that Paul listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7?
3. How does the list of elder qualifications in 1 Tim. 3:1-7 compare to the qualifications for the servants (deacons) in verses 8-13?