

# Genuine Leaders

## I Timothy 3:1-16

### One Point: Live you so do

What is the difference between a worldly leader and a leader described by Paul?

#### v. 1-7

- Overseer=elder
  - Overseer is a man who oversees a local congregation
  - Duties: teach/preach, direct affairs of the church, “pastor” the sheep, guard the church from error
- “noble task”: being an elder/leader in the church is not something to be taken lightly
- Verses 2-7 prove this; it is why so much is expected of an elder, because so many people look up to them

James 3:1 “Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.”

- Obviously, someone who wants to be an elder needs to be pursuing God and a more Christ-like life

Proverbs 20:7 “The righteous lead blameless lives; blessed are their children after them.”

- Verse 5=KEY; God first entrusts us with smaller things so that we might learn how to handle the larger things

Luke 16:10 “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.”

- Family isn’t even something small
  - We need to be able to be trusted with managing our family if we even want to START to be trusted with God’s family
  - Also, members of the church look up to leaders as their example for how they conduct their own lives, including their family life
- 6 pretty self-explanatory

#### v. 8-13

- Deacons, who are under elders and basically assistants to overseers, have similar requirements for similar reasons

- Deacon: “one who serves”
- They free the elders to fully care for the church
- But they also represent the elders above themselves, therefore they should represent the overseers properly
- This is why they must be tested by elders, so that it is known that they are God-seeking men
- Their wives must also represent the deacons properly
  - Deaconesses are also called on to be “women worthy of respect”, or simply godly women

#### **v. 14-16**

- Paul writes this so that leaders in the church know how to act and so Timothy knows how they should carry themselves
- The key to piety, or righteousness in God’s eyes is none other than Jesus Christ

Clearly, Paul feels that it is necessary to instruct Timothy on how church leadership should act. It’s no longer what the leadership should do, but who they should be. With all of the false teachings that were seeping into the church, Paul probably felt that the best way to combat these problems was by making sure that the leadership was stable and fully founded in God.

So what is different from worldly leaders? Worldly leaders put on a front and fake having it all together; they manipulate people into believing that they have the truth; that’s how they gain followers. The world tells us that to become leaders we have to make ourselves better, fulfill a bunch of qualifications to prove to people that we can be a good leader. God has already called people to be leaders in His church; he simply prepares them to be Godly leaders. They don’t become leaders, they become the leaders God wants them to be. Paul describes how leaders should conduct themselves in order to be genuine leaders (which obviously require God’s molding and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to fulfill). These leaders don’t put on a front, they make it so that the members in their congregation can see that they are people after God’s own heart and genuinely give their all to the ministry (evident through how they live their lives).