

A Biblical Worldview

Gender, Singleness, Marriage and Family

Week 3: Biblical Church Leadership – 1 Timothy 3:1-7

1 Timothy 3:1-7 (NASB95)

It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. ²An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. ⁴He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity ⁵(but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), ⁶and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. ⁷And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

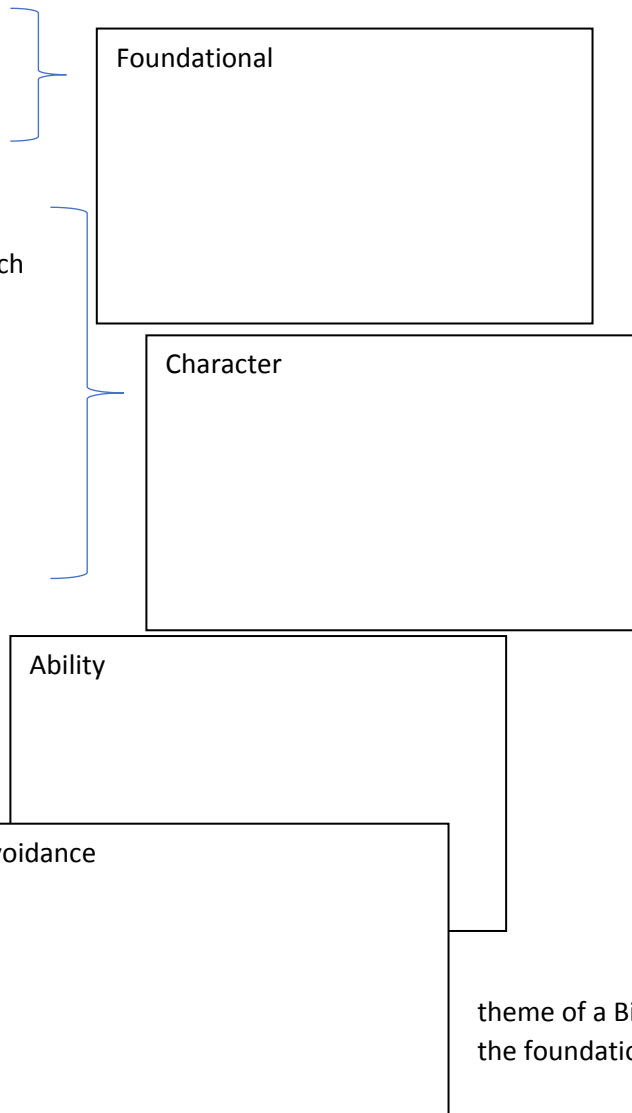
Expectations:

- Man
- Aspiration to the office
- Husband of one wife

- Above reproach
- Good reputation outside the church
- Temperate
- Prudent
- Respectable
- Hospitable
- Gentle
- Peaceable
- Free from the love of money

- Able to teach
- Manages his household well

- Not addicted to wine
- Not pugnacious
- Not a new convert



For the purpose of our current gender, we will be focusing on

theme of a Biblical worldview the foundational qualifications

of (1) being a man, (2) aspiring to the office and (3) husband of one wife.

Being a Man

There have been two roles within Scripture that have been limited to male leadership: priest and pastor (elder/bishop/shepherd). There isn't a Scripture verse that speaks to women serving in these two roles, because Scripture is very clear about God's intentions. Men are priests and pastors. So, where does the push back come from.

First, many will claim cultural bias. Second, many will claim Scriptural evidence.

Aspires to the Office

We often talk in terms of pastors being "called" to be a pastor. When the Scriptures speaks of "calling" it is speaking of salvation (Romans 1:7, Galatians 1:6, 1 Timothy 6:12) or living for God's glory (Romans 8:28, Galatians 5:13, 2 Timothy 1:9). We are "called" to be saved. We are "called" to live a life for the glorify of God.

So, why do we use the phrase "called" to ministry rather than "aspire" to ministry? I'm not exactly sure. Let's look at the word aspire.

The Greek word used here (*oregetai*) means: to stretch out, to reach after, to yearn for. Therefore, desiring to be an overseer is better biblical language. God didn't limit the position of overseer to men that are called but to men that desire the office and qualify for the office.

Husband of One Wife

The third foundational qualifier is husband of one wife. Strangely for hundreds and hundreds of years the church seems to completely understand this phrase. But in modern historical times, this phrase has become a massive mystery that no one can understand.

Today, there are three generally accepted interpretations for this phrase (husband of one wife):

- (1) Pastors cannot be polygamist. Thus, as long as you don't have multiple wives your fine.
- (2) Pastors must be a "one woman kind of guy". Meaning, one wife at a time. Divorce is acceptable as long as you are committed to your current wife.
- (3) Pastors can only be married once. Divorce is not permitted. They can only have one marriage unless their spouse passes. In which case they can marry another.

As you can imagine; the first two views are the modern interpretations and the third view is historical. Why the new views? Divorce has so impacted the church that it's difficult for the church to "disqualify" those that have been divorced. Simply put, cultural pressure has impacted many people's views of Scripture.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Why is it important to have the Bible dictate our beliefs rather than the culture?
- ❖ Why is having Biblical church leadership important?
- ❖ What role do you play in helping the church have Biblical leadership?
- ❖ How do families impact the next generation of church leaders?
- ❖ How is the culture trying to draw us away from Biblical church leadership?
- ❖ How do you plan on preparing to fight against the cultural pressures coming against the church?

