

“Leadership: Biblical Servants”

The Reflection Series

Scripture: 1 Timothy 3:1-3 (NIV)

Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. ² Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.

Subject Question: According to Paul, what three characteristics made a person a valued and valuable Servant-Leader?

Compliment answer: A Solid-Character, A Selfless-Commitment, and A Sacred-Conscience.

Big Idea: According to Paul, the three characteristics that make a person a valued and valuable Servant-Leader are: A Solid-Character, A Selfless-Commitment, and A Sacred-Conscience.

Homiletical Idea: “He must increase...”

Purpose: I want the congregation to hear, and the elected Biblical servants to take to heart, Paul’s teaching concerning the level individuals called to leadership in Christ’s church should aspire to rise to.

Introduction: The calling to become a church leader can be daunting and exhilarating. Most come into the position with some fear and trepidation. Let me assure you, those thoughts and feelings are normal and understandable. But in reality, the issue isn’t so much can one DO a task? You can and will. You’re a lot smarter than you give yourself credit! The real question however, at least in the church, is about character. It’s not so much doing as being. Are you really “spiritually” in the place where God can use you in a way that pleases both Him and you? Better yet, and this is key, are you willing to be in that place spiritually. If you can answer yes, I am willing, then you are already a prime candidate for effective and satisfying leadership. Today we consider the words of Paul to Timothy about what character traits are required for a biblical leader.

(If you’re willing, He is Ready)

A. A Solid-Character (Vs.1-2a) *Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. ² Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable,*

B. This is what I would call the “be” list. Not to be confused with the not to be list found in verse three. Anyway...

1. **Aspires:** stretches out his hands after...

2. **Noble:** literally, "honorable work." Not the honor associated with it, but the work, is the prominent thought (Ac 15:38; Php 2:30; compare 2Ti 4:5). He who aims at the office must remember the high qualifications needed for the due discharge of its functions. (Henry)

a. **Above reproach: (Blameless)** These “elders” must, in the first place, be men whose character is unimpeachable—men who stand high in public estimation, known for their pure life and spotless integrity (Elliot)

b. **Faithful to Spouse:** This direction, which requires that those to be selected to fill holy offices should be known for their purity in their family relations,

c. **Temperate:** The Greek word here is more accurately rendered *sober*. The presbyter or elder should be sober-minded, self-restrained, temperate (not merely in wine, but in all things).

d. **Self-controlled:** Better rendered, *discreet*.

e. **Respectable:** Rather, *orderly*. This word refers to outward conduct, to behavior in public. The Christian office-bearer must not only be wise and self-restrained in himself, but his outward bearing must in all respects correspond to his inner life.

f. **Hospitable:** Literally, *a lover of strangers*. As the primitive Christians took a particular charge of orphans, widows, sick people, and of such as were imprisoned for their religion, or spoiled of their goods, so also of strangers; to the care of whom they were led by the manners of the age, and the peculiar circumstances of the times. (Benson)

C. Not really too hard of a list to keep for the maturing Christian who finds themselves called by a congregation to serve... Notice that there is no call to be perfect—just lovingly loyal and self-aware.

D. The best description might be, you have been called to be a “hands” person. In this instance you are to be stretching your hands out to others as you stretch out your hands to take hold of the office that God has called you to. A Solid-Character...

(If you’re willing, He is Ready)

A. A Selfless-Commitment. (Vs.2b) *able to teach,*

B. For some of you this is your greatest desire. You have that gift of leadership that manifests itself in willingness to study and share, to learn and to example. For others, you might be feeling that this is not your thing. But think about it. As Chastain leaders we already are in the

business of being examples—teaching, if you will, what it means to walk with and to be associated with Christ. Its not just WWJD(What would Jesus do) , but more HWJA (How would Jesus Act).

C. In the least, any Christian in leadership should know, and be able to share or teach two things:

1. Your Story. How you came to know Christ.
2. The 4 Basic elements of the Gospel:
 - a. God loves You and has a plan of your Life.
 - b. We are separated from God’s love and plan by the sin in our life.
 - c. God did what we could not do in dealing with our sin by sending his Son to die on the cross for our sins.
 - d. One must personally believe that Jesus did this for you and personally and individually receive Him into your life as not only your Savoir but Lord.(One who now calls the shots—He died for you now He wants you to live for Him)

D. In this case, it’s not about reaching your hands out, but reaching your hands up... Lord I can’t by myself be an example of you. The thought of me teaching by example about you is beyond me, I can’t do this alone. I need you to take hold of my hand and lead me, and help me, and walk with me, and if you will, use me in this role as leader. A Solid-Character, A Selfless-Commitment

(If you’re willing, He is Ready)

- A. A Sacred-Conscience. (Vs.3) ³ *not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.*
- B. This is the “not to do” list. Pretty self-explanatory. Don’t give in, don’t give up, and don’t give the wrong impression. EX. John Booth.
- C. In this case, the need is to consider your conscience a sacred place where the Holy Spirit dwells... Here your hands are to embrace the sacred of all hand positions. The position of prayer.
- D. The Servant, Biblical- leader prayer

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.

²Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.

⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.
⁵Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
⁶Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.
⁷Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
⁹Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.
¹⁰Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
¹¹Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.
¹⁴Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
¹⁵Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
¹⁶You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
¹⁷My sacrifice, O God, is ^(b) a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.
¹⁸May it please you to prosper Zion,
to build up the walls of Jerusalem.
¹⁹Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the righteous,
in burnt offerings offered whole;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

A Solid-Character, A Selfless-Commitment, A Sacred-Conscience
(If you're willing, He is Ready)