

## 1 Timothy

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### Lesson 3: 1 Timothy 3

After addressing the role of men and women in the church, Paul moves on to address the issue of church leadership. In chapter 3, Paul focuses on the two offices of the church—elders and deacons. Paul does not necessarily focus on the duties of these offices as he does the qualifications for these offices. The duties were evident, but the qualifications needed clarification. There were men who were teaching false doctrine and women who had wrongly assumed power, and this needed to be addressed. Let's dive in and see what God's standards are for biblically qualified leaders in His church.

➤ **Read 1 Timothy 3:1–7**

1. In verse 1, what is the first qualification of an elder?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. According to verses 1 and 2, what gender must an elder be?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. In verses 2–3, what twelve qualifications must a man meet in order to be considered for eldership?

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 7. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 8. _____  |
| 3. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 4. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 12. _____ |

4. In verses 4–6, what three qualifications does Paul give?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Application:** Why are these qualifications critical to having a healthy church?

**Application:** What are specific actions or character flaws that disqualify men from eldership? Why do you think churches would overlook these actions or character flaws?

➤ **Read 1 Timothy 3:8–13**

5. In verses 8–12, what are the qualifications for a deacon?

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|---------------|----------------|
| 1. (v.8)_____ | 5. (v.9)_____  |
| 2. (v.8)_____ | 6. (v.10)_____ |
| 3. (v.8)_____ | 7. (v.13)_____ |
| 4. (v.8)_____ | 8. (v.13)_____ |

6. In verse 11, what are the qualifications of deacon’s wives?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

7. The qualifications of elders and deacons are very similar. However, there is one major difference. Looking at the two lists, what is the one qualifications of elders that a deacon not not have to have (Hint: see verse 2)?

8. What do the qualifications of elders and deacons reveal about their roles in the home?

**Application:** The character qualities listed above do not pertain only to elders and deacons, but to all Christians. Elders and deacons are chosen by whether they meet these qualifications. What quality (or qualities) listed above do you want to work on in your life?

9. In verse 13, the Greek word “deacons” can refer to both elders and deacons. What are the two rewards for those who serve faithfully?

**Application:** Read Mark 10:42–45. How does Jesus’ view of leadership differ from the world’s view?

**Application:** What church leader(s) have encouraged you the most in your spiritual walk? What was it that brought encouragement to you?

➤ **Read 1 Timothy 3:14–16**

10. In verses 14–15, what is Paul’s purpose in writing his letter to Timothy?

11. In verse 15, how does Paul describe the church?

12. In verse 16, Paul gives a common confession for the church. As you read this confession, who is it referring to?

13. In verse 16, it describes Jesus as “vindicated in the Spirit.” In what way did the resurrection of Jesus verify or vindicate the supremacy of Christ?

**Application:** What are temptations facing the church today that would cause it to sway from God’s plan and purpose as “the pillar and support of the truth”?

**Application:** What one verse impacted you the most in this lesson? Why?

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**Food for Thought**

“The life you live in private determines the ministry you can have in public.”

—John Kitchen