

1 Timothy 3

1. After giving glory to God, what is the most important work of the church?
-To pray for all people.
2. Why should most of our prayer be for the lost?
-Because Christians have already been given eternal life.
-Because all non Christians will go to eternal hell if they do not believe in Christ.
3. As 1 Timothy 2:1-3 teaches us, when is God pleased with us?
-When we pray for the lost.
4. Does God condemn anyone to hell and eternal death?
-No.
-God wants all people to be saved.
5. If God wants all people to be saved, then why are all people not saved?
-Because some people do not want to be saved.
6. What is the work of a mediator?
-A mediator works to bring two people who have been separated back together again.
7. Why is Christ alone the only mediator between God and man?
-Because Christ alone is completely God and completely human without sin.

8. Instead of adorning themselves with elaborate hairstyles or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, with what should Christian women adorn themselves?
-With good deeds appropriate for women who profess to worship God.
9. Why does the Word of God say that God and Paul do not permit a woman to teach?
-When the church meets, the Word of God teaches us that the men are to teach.
10. Does 1 Timothy 2:12 teach us that God does not want women to teach?
-No.
-When women are not in a church service, they should teach other women and children.
11. If men and women are spiritually equal before God, what is the difference between men and women?
-The work that God chose to give to women is different than the work that God chose to give to men.

-In the first part of 1 Timothy chapter 3, God and Paul teach about the elders of the church.

-Are elders men who are older?
-No.
-What is an elder?

-An elder is a leader of the church who knows, teaches, and obeys the Word of God.

- What other names does the Word of God use for elders?
- Overseers, bishops, pastors, or shepherds.
- When Paul met with the elders of the church in Ephesus, he called them shepherds (Ac 20:28).
- In the fields, what is the work of the shepherds?
- To care for the sheep.
- In the church, what is the work of the shepherds or elders?
- To care for the sheep or Christians in the church.
- How do elders care for the Christians in the church?
- By teaching them the Word of God.
- By praying with them and for them.
- By protecting them.
- By visiting them in their homes.
- By helping them if they have any spiritual or physical needs.
- Here is an illustration:
- If your cow or goat or sheep has a wound, what do you do?
- You care for it.
- What would you do if you heard that someone wanted to steal one of your animals?

- You would guard it in order to protect it.
- In the same way, elders must care for and protect the Christians in the church.
- With this foundation about elders, let's begin reading 1 Timothy chapter 3.

Let's read 1 Timothy 3:1

- 1-Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an [elder] desires a noble task.
- Why does the Word of God call the work of an elder a noble task or excellent work?
- Because the work of an elder is to take care of the people of the church for whom the Lord Jesus died.
- We take care of what is important to us.
- If you are a father or mother, you take care of your children because they are important to you.
- If you are a farmer, you take care of your fields because they are important to you.
- If you have cattle, you take care of them because they are important to you.
- Here on earth, what is important to God?

-The church, that is, God's people.

-Why is the church important to God?

-Because He paid for the church with His own blood, His own life.

-When Jesus returned to heaven, He did not leave His children alone.

-When Jesus returned to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to take care of His children, the church.

-How does the Holy Spirit care for God's children?

-By choosing elders to care for the Lord's sheep.

-This is why elders must be controlled by the Holy Spirit to care for God's children.

-Should we have elders in the church who want to become rich from working in the church?

-No.

-Like the Lord Jesus, elders should not want to profit from working with others.

-Should we have elders in the church who want to be kings, and command the people to serve them?

-No.

-Like the Lord Jesus, elders should serve the people of

the church.

-A man should become an elder only if He wants to serve God by serving the church.

Let's read 1 Timothy 3:2

2-Now the [elder] is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach.

-When the Word of God says that an elder must be above reproach, does this mean that he must be without sin?

-No.

-No one is without sin except for Jesus.

-What does it mean to be above reproach?

-It means that no one is able to find any wrong in you.

-This is because when you sin, you repent before God and man.

-The Word of God says that an elder must be the husband of but one wife.

-If an elder is married, he must have only one wife, and must remain faithful to his one wife.

-If the wife of an elder dies, can he remarry?

-Yes.

-She must, however, be a Christian woman.

-If a man committed adultery before he believed in Christ, but as a Christian no longer commits adultery, can he become an elder?

-Yes.

-A person should be seen by his life as a Christian, and not by his life before he believed in Christ.

-Can a man who married two wives before he became a Christian become an elder?

-No.

-Should a man who married two wives before he became a Christian divorce one wife so that he can become an elder?

-No.

-God hates divorce, and if a man marries two wives before he becomes a Christian, he must continue to be the husband of both wives (Mal 2:16).

-Does the Word of God say that only married men can be an elder?

-No.

-Yet, if a man who is not married becomes an elder, he must be careful with women.

-The Word of God says that an elder must be temperate.

-To be temperate means not to be extreme, but to be able to think clearly and calmly.

-The Word of God says that an elder must be self-controlled.

-To be self-controlled means to be controlled by God, and not by the flesh.

-The Word of God says that an elder must be respectable.

-To be respectable means to be orderly, not chaotic.

-The Word of God says that an elder must be hospitable.

-To be hospitable means that the door of one's house is always open to help strangers and others.

-The Word of God says that an elder must be able to teach.

-To be able to teach means that one spends much time studying the Word of God in order to teach well so that people can understand well.

-God and Paul continue to teach us about elders:

Let's read 1 Timothy 3:3

3-[An elder must not be] given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.

-The Word of God says that an elder must not be given to drunkenness.

-An elder should not drink alcohol if it will hurt himself or his fellow Christians.

-Can a man who is drunk be controlled by the Holy Spirit?

-No.

-The Word of God says that an elder must not be violent.

-Jesus was never violent.

-Even when Christ turned over the tables in the temple, He did not touch the men who were changing money or selling animals.

-Jesus was not violent because He trusted the Father to fight His battles for Him.

-The Word of God says that an elder must be gentle.

-Jesus was always gentle, as God's heart is to bring people to repentance so that they can be saved.

-The Word of God says that an elder must not be quarrelsome.

-Jesus did not quarrel or argue with people.

-Even when Christ was falsely accused and stood before Pilate, he did not even speak to defend Himself.

-This is because Christ is the truth, and knows the truth, and knows that the truth needs no argument.

-The Word of God says that an elder must not be a lover of money.

-The Word of God says that the love of money is the root of all evil (1 Ti 6:10).

-Will a lover of money serve God and His people with his whole heart?

-No.

-He will look after himself more than the church.

-Can a rich man be an elder?

-Yes.

-His wealth, however, must not become more important than serving God and the people of the church.

Let's read 1 Timothy 3:4-5

4-[An elder] must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect.

5-(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

-Why must an elder manage his own family well?

-If a man cannot lead his family at home, he will not be able to lead the church.

-Should a man be an elder if his wife is not a Christian?
-No.

-Should a man be an elder if he fails to teach, discipline, and care for his children?
-No.

Let's read 1 Timothy 3:6

6-He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.

-Why should an elder not be a new Christian?
-Because he may become proud.

-Here is an illustration:

-Would the people of a village choose a young man to be the chief of their village?
-No.

-The young man might become proud, and instead of

doing what is best for the village, he might do what is best for himself.

-In the same way it would be foolish to choose a new Christian to be an elder.

-When Satan was chief of all the angels, he became proud.

-Therefore, God removed as a leader of the angels.

-If a new Christian is chosen to be an elder, he might become proud, and have to be removed.

-Are elders to be chosen on the first day of teaching?
-No.

-When should a church choose elders?

-Not at the beginning, but only after the church has been meeting for a while.

-When Paul and Barnabas first taught in Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, they did not choose elders.

-Elders were not chosen until Paul and Barnabas had returned to teach a second time.

-Paul would continue to teach until men became strong enough in their faith to become elders.

-This is because elders must not be men who have recently believed, but rather men who have a strong faith in Christ.

-When God through Paul wrote a letter to the church in Corinth, he called the Christians babies in Christ (1 Co 3:1).

-This is because the Christians still did not know the Word of God very well, nor were they obeying the Word of God very well.

-Here is an illustration:

-If you leave your children at home, do you ask the babies to care for the other children?

-No.

-Who do you ask to care for the children?

-The oldest child who knows what to do and who will obey.

-An elder of the church must be a man who knows God well, and who obeys the Word of God well.

-In the early church, who chose the elders?

-The man who began the teaching of the Word of God.

-Paul and Barnabas chose elders for the churches in Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch where they taught.

-Titus chose elders for the churches in Crete where he taught.

-How should a church choose elders?

-Should elders be chosen because they have lots of money or cattle?

-No.

-Should elders be chosen because they are important?

-No.

-Elders should be chosen by God the Holy Spirit through the people of the church.

-These should be men who are already helping other Christians in the church.

-These should be men who are already seen by others in the church to be elders.

-Does the Word of God say that there should be only one man to be the elder of the church?

-No.

-Did Paul and Barnabas choose just one man to be the elder of the church?

-No.

-When we read about elders in the Word of God, there is always more than one.

Let's read 1 Timothy 3:7

7-[An elder] must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

-An elder must be a good witness in the church as well as outside the church.

-Otherwise, he will fall into disgrace and into Satan's trap.

-Because Satan wants to destroy the leaders of the church, he sets many traps or temptations for elders.

-Elders have the temptation of discouragement when they or others do not obey God as they should.

-Elders have the temptation of not caring when they or others do not do the work of the church as they should.

-Elders have the temptation of not being strong enough to correct sin when it needs to be corrected.

-Finally, elders have all of the temptations that other Christians have except the temptations may be stronger.

-Must a man be perfect before he becomes an elder?

-No.

-Only Jesus is perfect.

-Yet an elder must live very close to the Word of God.

-If a man sometimes says or does something wrong, should we reject him as an elder?

-No.

-We should not choose elders because they sometimes sin, but rather choose elders by the way they live most days.

-Can an elder live according to the Word of God and be holy in his own strength?

-No.

-It is only by allowing the Holy Spirit to control his thoughts, his words, and his actions is he able to live according to the Word of God and be holy.

-Does God only want elders to be controlled by the Holy Spirit?

-No.

-God does not have different laws for His children.

-God wants all of His children to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.

-God wants all of His children to be holy like the Lord Jesus.