

1 Timothy 3:1-7: What Does a Man Need to Be to Become a Pastor?

Part 1: What Every Man Should Aim For (1 Timothy 3:1-2a)

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Apprenticeship Focus

Pastoral Passages

- Hebrews 13:7,17
- 1 Tim 3:1-7 / Titus 1:5-9
- 1 Peter 5:1-7
- Acts 20:17-35
- (Eph 4:11-16)

Reasons

- Lack
- Need
- Accuracy
- Clarity
- Mastery
- Reality

¹ This *is* a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. ^{2a} A bishop then must be blameless,

¹ Πιστός ὁ λόγος. Εἴ τις ἐπίσκοπῆς ὀρέγεται, καλοῦ ἔργου ἐπιθυμεῖ. ^{2a} δεῖ οὖν τὸν ἐπίσκοπον ἀνεπίλημpton εἶναι,

IT IS GOOD FOR MEN TO DESIRE TO BECOME PASTORS (spiritual leaders in the church)

1. We Are to Listen to This and Think About It

This is a faithful saying (lit. “faithful the word”)

- 1 Tim 1:15 – This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.
- 1 Tim 4:9 – This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. [that godliness is profitable to all things]
- 2 Tim 2:11 – This is a faithful saying: For if we died with *Him*, We shall also live with *Him*.
- Titus 3:8 – This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

2. We Are to Recognize Pastoring (spiritual leadership in the church) as a Good Work

- Worth your time, your effort, and your sacrifice
- Helpful to the church and needed by the church
- Connected to eternity in a special way

3. We Need to Encourage Men & Boys Towards Pastoring

- We need to highlight this as a good work

- We need to prepare our men and boys for this good work
- We need to encourage our men and our boys to consider this good work

4. We Need to Equip Men and Boys to Become Pastors

A bishop then must be blameless (lit. “necessary therefore the bishop blameless to be”)

- Desire is good and is encouraged, but it is not enough by itself
- Must be (as in, “You must be born again” in John 3:3)
- Blameless (general term, defined by the following list – not part of the list to be defined as people see fit)

5. We Need to Aim to Be What God Requires of Pastors

This list is essentially a list of spiritual maturity goals for men. God just requires pastors to have become spiritual mature in order to be considered for a pastoring position.

2-3 – Our Character

2 – What we are to be (positive – as we grow spiritually we become like these)

3 – What we are not to be (negative – as we grow spiritually we are NOT be like these)

4-5 – Our Castle (what a man has become in his home)

6 – Our Conversion (or possibly our age)

7 – Our Community Testimony

6. We Need to Be Evaluating Men as Potential Pastors

Examining spiritual maturity and ministry experience

Evaluation by other pastors (hence the list in 1 Tim 3 & Titus 1)

*Ongoing observation over **many years** (you cannot evaluate this easily in a weekend...). Indicates internal leadership expectations.*

7. Some Related Questions (and Answers)

Why is this not true in most circles now?

- *Emphasis on formal, external training*
- *Embracing of a single-pastor mentality*
- *Expectation of a paid-pastor mentality*
- *Extra-biblical application of “the call”*

Should every man become a pastor?

Should every man seek to qualify as a pastor?

- *Diligently study and learn*
- *Prayerfully consider the responsibility and need*
- *Patiently serve in various capacities as God provides*