

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

Part 6: Devilish Dangers for Potential Pastors (1 Timothy 3:6-7)

⁶ not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the *same* condemnation as the devil.

⁷ Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Danger #1 – _____, Which Causes One to Fall into Condemnation Like the Devil

⁶ not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the *same* condemnation as the devil.

⁶ μὴ νεόφυτον, ἵνα μὴ τυφωθείς εἰς κρίμα ἐμπέσει τοῦ διαβόλου.

A. What a Potential Pastor Cannot Be – _____

Neophuton – neophyte – lit. new plant or newly planted

B. Why a Potential Pastor Cannot Be

"in order that he might not, being wrapped in smoke, fall into the condemnation of the devil."

(τῦφος, smoke; pride)

2 Tim 3:4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

Because new converts are not spiritually mature, it is dangerous to place them in leadership positions. If they become proud because of their quick advancement, it is likely that they will fall into the same trap of pride as did the devil. (W.D. Mounce)

An overestimation of position and ability which causes one to rest in one's own abilities and to forget the giver of those abilities and the purpose of those abilities.

C. What Happens When This Is Ignored – _____

he fall into the *same* condemnation as the devil.

Isa 14:12-15 ¹² "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! ¹³ For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' ¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

D. Safety Measures

- Slow advancement
- Spiritual maturity over time

But those new to the faith cannot have the necessary spiritual maturity which church leadership requires. Though a recent convert may be adept in finances or business management, for church leadership there is a more fundamental requirement—the spiritual depth of the individual that can only develop persistently and faithfully over time. (Larson, K)