

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

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

<sup>6</sup> not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the *same* condemnation as the devil. <sup>7</sup> 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 – Blinding Pride → Fall into Condemnation Like the Devil**

##### **A. What a Potential Pastor Cannot Be – New Plant**

*Neophyton* – νεόφυτον – *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 "haughty"

*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 – Removal**

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

Isa 14:12-15 <sup>12</sup> "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! <sup>13</sup> 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; <sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' <sup>15</sup> Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

Psa 25:9 The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way.  
Psa 101:5 Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, Him I will destroy; The one who has a haughty look and a proud heart, Him I will not endure.

Pro 6:16-18 <sup>16</sup> These six *things* the LORD hates, Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him: <sup>17</sup> A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup> A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil,

Pro 8:13 The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.

Pro 11:2 When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble *is* wisdom.

Pro 16:5 Everyone proud in heart *is* an abomination to the LORD; *Though they join* forces, none will go unpunished.

Pro 16:18 Pride *goes* before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

Pro 29:23 A man's pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor.

Jam 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

Jam 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Matt 23:11-12 "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. <sup>12</sup> "And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

##### **D. Safety Measures**

(1) Slow advancement (2) Spiritual maturity over time

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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)

#### ***Necessity of Growing Time (6), Necessity of a Good Testimony (7)***

<sup>7</sup> Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. δεῖ δὲ καὶ μαρτυρίαν καλὴν ἔχειν ἀπὸ τῶν ἔξωθεν, ἵνα μὴ εἰς ὀνειδισμὸν ἐμπέσῃ καὶ παγίδα τοῦ διαβόλου.

#### **Danger #2 – Resulting Reproach [of the Devil?]**

*Disgrace... [Petreaus]*

- *Harms the leader of God (makes him ineffective)*
- *Harms the work of God (brings shame & disgrace; loss of trust)*
- *Harms the people of God (discouragement)*

#### **Danger #3 – Sabotaging Snare of the Devil**

1 Tim 6:9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

2 Tim 2:26 and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.

- *Maintain a good testimony with those without*
- *What non-Christians see IS important*
- *This is earned by good practices*

Finances – Business practices – Legal – Moral – Family Issues, etc.

#### **Conditions of These Dangers – Immaturity and Accusability**

#### **Character of These Dangers – Falling (unintentional but certain)**

Luke 6:39 And He spoke a parable to them: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch?"

1 Tim 6:9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

#### **Common Factor of These Dangers – Devil**

Eph 4:27 nor give place to the devil.

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

James 4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

1 Pet 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Rev 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.