

## 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)

#### College Experience and Training...

<sup>1</sup> This *is* a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. <sup>2a</sup> A bishop then must be blameless,

<sup>1</sup> Πιστός ὁ λόγος. Εἴ τις ἐπίσκοπῆς ὀρέγεται, καλοῦ ἔργου ἐπιθυμεῖ. <sup>2a</sup> δεῖ οὖν τὸν ἐπίσκοπον ἀνεπίλημπτον εἶναι,

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

#### 1. We Are to \_\_\_\_\_ to This and \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Work

- It is worth your time, your effort, and your sacrifice
- It is helpful to the church and needed by the church
- It is connected to eternity in a special way

#### 3. We Need to Encourage Men & Boys \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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)

Northridge Baptist Church – August 12, 2018 – Pastor Kevin Subra

#### 5. We Need to \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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...). This indicates the expectation of ongoing internal leadership development.*

#### 7. Some Related Questions (and Answers)

**What hinders this encouragement in many circles now?**

- Emphasizing formal, external training
- Embracing of a single-pastor philosophy
- Expectation of a paid-pastor philosophy
- Excluding non-vocational pastoral roles
- Extra-biblical application of “the call”

**Should every man become a pastor?**

- No. God will enable a limited number of men to lead in the shepherding role.

**Should every man seek to qualify as a pastor?**

- Every man should diligently study and learn as they are able
- Every man should prayerfully consider the responsibility and need
- Every man should patiently serve in various ways as God provides
- Let God reveal who should be shepherds
- If you never end up in a formal shepherding role, nothing is lost – spiritual maturity is needed at every level.
- All men are to become spiritually mature in their own lives and spiritually lead their home and family.