

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 3:6-7) #2

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.

Initial Observation – Three Repeated Concepts

A. A Repeated Condition: “in order that might not”

These two requirements / restrictions are given to **prevent** these dangers.

B. A Repeated Action: “he might fall” (the danger)

These dangers happen to men without their active participation.

C. A Repeated Actor: “of the devil” (the measure)

The result of these: Be like the devil in his rebellion, or fall victim to his traps.

Danger #1 – Blinding PRIDE

A. What a Potential Pastor Cannot Be: A Recent **Plant**

“not a novice” – νεόφυτον – *neophuton* – lit. new plant or newly planted

B. Why a Potential Pastor Cannot Be: Resulting Conceit

“in order that he might not, being wrapped in smoke (τυφωθεις – *tuphotheis*)”

An overestimation of one’s position and ability, which leads one to rest in one’s own abilities, and to forget the Giver of those abilities and the purpose of those abilities.

- 1 Tim 6:4 **he is proud** (τετύφωται – *tetuphotai* – he has been made proud – perfect), knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions,
- 2 Tim 3:4 traitors, headstrong, **haughty** (τετυφωμένοι – *tetuphomenoi* – made proud [ones]), lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

C. What Happens When This Is Ignored: Required Removal

“he fall into the [same] condemnation as the devil.”

- Isa 14:12-15 “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.
- 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.
- Matt 23:11-12 “But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹² “And whoever exalts himself **will be humbled**, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

D. What Safety Measures Can We Adopt

- (1) **Slow advancement, based upon thorough evaluation** (1 Tim 5:22)
- (2) **Sufficient seasoning (reflected in the term “elder”)**
- (3) **Spiritual maturity over time**

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What a Potential Pastor Must Have

⁷ Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside,

A. The Nature of the Requirement: A GOOD _____

B. The Necessity of the Requirement: _____ (δεῖ – *dei*)

- John 3:7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’
- John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up
- Acts 1:16 Men [and] brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled...
- 1 Tim 3:2a A bishop then must be blameless...
- 1 Tim 3:15a but if I am delayed, [I write] so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God...

C. The Focus of the Requirement: FROM THOSE _____

D. The Reasons for the Requirement: 2 _____ DANGERS

lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

ἵνα μὴ εἰς ὀνειδισμὸν ἐμπέσῃ καὶ παγίδα τοῦ διαβόλου.

Danger #2 – Resulting _____ [of the Devil?]

Disgrace... [Petreaus; David]

- Harms the _____ of God (makes him ineffective)
- Harms the _____ of God (brings shame; disgrace; distrust)
- Harms the _____ of God (discouragement)

Danger #3 – Sabotaging _____ 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.

E. What Is the Solution?

- *Grasp that what we do matters. God cares about our testimony.*
- *What others see IS important. Our leaders must be vetted outside.*
- *We must have good practices now to impact the long-term:*
Financial – Business – Legal – Lawful – Moral – Family Issues, etc.

SUMMARY of the Three Dangers:

1. Causes of and Solutions for these Dangers:

- a. _____: Need for _____ Time
- b. _____: Need for a _____ Outward Testimony

2. Character of These Dangers: _____ (unintentional but certain)

3. Common Factor of These Dangers: The _____