
Sermon Notes

March 7, 2021

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

A Noble Task 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Leadership

- ❖ 1 Timothy 3 outlines qualifications for church leadership
 - church leadership differs from leadership in any other arena of society
 - *like people, like priests.* (Hosea 4:9)
 - an inseparable connection between the quality of the leadership in a church and the character of that church
- ❖ Vital for all, especially young people, to know and hold onto what the Holy Spirit outlines in 1 Timothy 3

Overseer

- ❖ The word that shows up here as *overseer* is sometimes translated as bishop, elder, or pastor
 - elders: people whose judgment you can count on as being reliable
 - pastor: another word for shepherd
 - those who serve in these roles are responsible for proclaiming God's Word, teaching God's people, and protecting the flock

- ❖ What's on the list?
 - unexceptional qualities
 - this list is remarkable because, at its core, it is actually so UNremarkable
 - everything Paul lists is commanded somewhere in the NT to be true of **ALL** believers
 - pastors are meant to exemplify the kinds of virtues that all God's people are called to exhibit
- ❖ *Above reproach*
 - consistently exemplifying what the whole church is aiming at
 - avoiding huge behavioral flaws that stand out and disqualify a man from vocational ministry
- ❖ *The husband of one wife*
 - "a one-woman man"
 - what this does and doesn't mean
 - a man who is devoted in heart and mind to the woman who is his wife
- ❖ *Sober minded, self-controlled, respectable*
 - clear-headed, self-possessed, not rash
 - wary, circumspect, cautious
 - makes sensible decisions and has balanced judgment
 - orderly, well-mannered

Personal Application

❖ *Hospitable and able to teach*

- a pastor will love people AND want to reach out to them with the truth
- hospitality = looking out for the stranger, being sure the new person feels cared for, included, and watched over
- having content AND the ability to communicate it

❖ *Not a drunkard*

- free from all forms of addiction
- a slave of Jesus Christ must not be the slave of anything else

❖ *Not violent, not a lover of money, able to manage his own household well*

- drunkenness is often associated with violence
- true strength shows itself in gentleness
- true leaders reflect contentment and faith trusting in the fact that God has promised to supply all their needs
- “the family is a little church”
 - holding children accountable for their actions
 - modeling Christian virtue and handling matters of discipline appropriately

❖ *Not a recent convert, lest he be puffed up with pride*

- the problem of pedestals
- *puffed up* = filled with smoke
- Satan is always “gunning” for church leaders

1. How has God used church leaders to shepherd and protect you over the course of your Christian life? Stop and thank God for those He has provided who have been positive role models for you. In cases where you have experienced discouragement or disappointment with church leaders, ask God to heal you and free you from any lingering bitterness or animosity toward them.
2. Read again the list of character qualities Paul lists for leaders in 1 Timothy 3:1-7. Realizing that these are things for which all Christians should be striving, evaluate your life by them and ask God to help you in areas where you may currently be falling short. Pray that God will strengthen those who lead you now in each of these areas.
3. Do you sense any ways in which God is currently working in your life to prepare and equip you to assume greater responsibility and/or leadership in His church? If so, share your thoughts and any desires God has given you about this with one of the church’s current leaders.