

I. The good work of spiritual leadership

- a. The faithful saying: (v:1) Paul had just written giving instructions to the church pertaining to women stating that they were not to be in positions of authority over congregations, however he was not chauvinistic in his approach. Paul did not believe that being a man by gender qualified you to be a leader within the church but there was some qualifications necessary for the job.
- b. The word Bishop in Greek means (episkopos) which literally means overseer. Someone who exercises authority within the church. (Elder or a Pastor)
- c. The qualification: (V:2-7) God has specific qualifications for leaders within the church. They should not be chosen at random nor because they are natural leaders but chosen based on how they meet the qualifications listed in scripture.
 1. **Blameless**: there should be nothing within his life that others can use to attack the church.
 2. **Husband to one wife**: His love and affection should be devoted to his lawful wedded wife. This does not mean that a Bishop has to be married or that he can't remarry in the event of divorce or death of his wife.
 3. **Temperate**: well rooted within his beliefs and not double minded.
 4. **Sober minded**: able to think clearly and with clarity.
 5. **Good Behavior**: orderly and upright
 6. **Able to teach**: He should be skilled enough in the Bible to teach in public and one on one.
 7. **Not violent or greedy for money**: He should let the Lord fight his battles and should be a cheerful giver.
 8. **Not given to wine**: he should not be addicted to wine. This does not prohibit Godly leaders from drinking wine but more so discourages reckless behavior when consuming alcoholic beverages.
 9. **Ruler of his own household**: Paul recognized that Christianity begins within your own home.
 10. **Not a Novice**: Cannot be a new convert. (Good example for all to see even unbelievers)

II. Deacons "The honorable servants of the Church" (v:8-16)

- a. The qualifications of a deacon:
 1. **Reverent**: shows proper respect for God and man.
 2. **Not double tongued**: speaks the truth without ill intent from the beginning.
 3. **Hold the mystery of faith**: understands proper doctrine out of sincere convictions.
 4. **Be tested**: demonstrate his ability to hold a office within the church by his conduct.
 5. **Wife should be reverent and not slanderous**: wife should have good character and one who does not stir up strife within the church.
 6. **Husband to one wife and ruler of his own household**: (Same as the office of a Bishop)
- b. Paul reminds timothy of the important of conducting themselves in a godly manner free from controversy and the wondrous things that God did for us.

III. Thoughts and Consideration

- a. The qualifications of a bishop and deacon and the foundation of Christian living are one in the same.
- b. Both bishops and deacons are called.
- c. God will use whomsoever he chooses to accomplish his work.