

Who Can Lead in Christ's Church?

Grace Bible Chapel Study of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 September 13, 2026

Context: We continue in Paul's pastoral epistle to Timothy. Paul is writing to guide Timothy knowing that false teachers have already entered the church at Ephesus. Key in any local assembly are the elders as those who hold the God given office of overseers. Paul provides an outline for defining who is qualified to serve in such an important capacity. There can be no compromise or vacillation from Paul's qualifications. The elders have the responsibility to follow God's Word in all things and give themselves for the purpose of causing the assembly to grow as individuals and as a church body into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

Outline of 1st Timothy (underlined portion is the immediate context)

- I. Charges for Public Worship (1:1-2-15)
 - A. Charge to Maintain Truth (1:1-11)
 - B. Charge to Serve Faithfully (1:12-20)
 - C. Charge for Men to Lead (2:1-8)
 - D. Charge for Role of Women (2:9-15)
- II. Conditions for Leadership (3:1-15)
 - A. Church Elder Qualifications (3:1-7)
 - 1. Selection of leaders
 - 2. Spiritual Qualifications (3:1-3)
 - 3. Spiritual Maturity (3:4-7)

Key Words

- Must (3)
- Overseer (2)
- above
- Aspires
- Care
- Dignity
- Respectable
- Trustworthy

Introduction

1. Selection of leaders

2. Spiritual Qualifications (3:1-3)

3. Spiritual Maturity (3:4-7)

Closing:
