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First Timothy 3 verses 1 through 7. These are God's words. This is a faithful saying, If a man desires the position of the bishop, he desires a good work. Bishop then must be blameless. The husband of one wife. Temperate. So, reminder of good behavior. Hospitable. Able to teach. Not given to wine.

Not violent. Not greedy for money. But gentle. Not quarrelsome. Not covetous. One who rose his own house. Well. Having his children and submission with all reference. For command does not know how to rule his own house. How will he take care? Of the church of god. Not a novice lest being puffed up with pride.

He fall into the same condemnation. As the devil. Moreover, he must have a good testimony among those who are outside. Lest he fall into reproach. And, The snare. Of the devil. Amen. God's word. So, in the Desire, the effort to reform the church in Ephesus. If backsliding ephesus is going to be recovered, if the backsliding is going to be Reversed.

Timothy is to put the The church back into order. And we've seen some of the different roles that need to be recovered and The prayer meeting itself, being a place where those roles come together and something that is. Necessary to a great engine of in the province of god.

The reformation or revival of a church. But as we're coming close now to verses 8 through 13, which is really the center of our thought and first Timothy on the deaconate containing us, it does to qualifications of the deaconate. Although there's portions and chapter 5 and chapter 6 and which we're going to See more of the work of the deaconate.

He first handles the qualifications of the elder or as he Or as he uses one of the elders, other titles, the bishop or the overseer and the ruler. And one of the reasons that this is done is because Uh, some of what has given then in the qualifications of a deacon and a character qualifications of a deacon who is to oversee the service ministry of the church is, shorthand referring back to you.

The more extended description of the elders character In. In versus one through seven specifically in versus two and three. There are some things in each description that are particular to their work, but he does deal with the elder at length first and then he picks a couple of the things that he has dealt with.

With respect to the elder. Uh, and he puts them in his description of the qualifications of beacon. Now, one of the important things that We have to notice right away in verse 1. Is the way that he introduces this. They introduces it with. A preamble or an introduction. That tells us that this is an important point of doctrine that this isn't just good advice that this isn't just the best way of making sure the church runs well.

But this is important, theology. This is an important truth. So he says this is a faithful saying, it's one of the faithful saying, introductions of important points of doctrine. Now, if god had just given us without that sort of an introduction of the spirit of just given us. The.

Advice on how to operate a home or advice on how to organize a church. Of course we should set aside everything that we had thought and go with god's advice instead. But he does elevate the significance then. Of what he's saying here because Uh, one of the problems that they had in emphasis is that as a result of having a disorganized church, They had people like alexander who had origin and made themselves futures in the church and And there was false doctrine being taught and doctrine.

That didn't accord. With godliness. And it turns out that one of the reasons why false doctrine comes from organizing the church with teachers other than the ones who in Christ is called to be the teachers is because that itself having the teachers at Christ has called having the teachers at Christ to saved having the teachers.

That christ. Has graced and grown and matured is itself an important. Doctrine. So this is part of that sound theology, which Timothy is supposed to be insisting on as he labors to see the backsliding and emphasis reverse. Now today there is much diversity. In the organization or authority structure of congregation.

In the professing church indivisible church, there's a bunch diversity and who does teaching. In the visible church and this is not a good thing. Uh, when the lord introduces something with this is a faithful saying. When he says this is an important point of doctrine. We hope That we would not have diversity in the churches, but that all the churches that say, oh, The bible says, this is theologically important that the church be organized.

This way. Now, one of the things that Uh, Some people might think and i hope that you will not be among them. Certainly not. By the time we're Uh, we're done. Considering the passage is that because there's so much Diversity, that scripture may be isn't clear. And so that this is a matter of indifference.

A small point, that shouldn't be A strongly emphasized. But of course, the apostle here strongly emphasizes. This is. A faithful saying. Not what? What immediately follows the faithful saying is a job description. If a man desires the position of the bishop, he desires a good work. Now we have seen Particularly in the apostles description of their own spiritual oversight and acts chapter 6 and paul's farewell to the ephesian elders in Acts chapter 20, some more thorough.

Uh, detailed descriptions of the things that elders are to do, but here is a summary job description. If anyone if a man desires The position of a bishop. He desires a good work. In other words, he is called to do. To do that, which is for the good of the flock, it's good.

And he is called to exert himself in laboring. It's work. And so a man who is going to be diligent and exerting himself for lay for in laboring and one who is going to do this. Laboring out of a desire for an aiming. At the good of the flock will especially have a particular character goodness and diligence Uh will mark this man this is why the qualifications that we see in versus two through seven.

Our primarily character qualifications and not ability qualifications. We're tempted in the church. Uh, to seek after those. Who seem to be really sharp? They're really skilled effective at getting people to do things. Uh, There are. Um, There are many sorts of ability ways we could go about. To discovering who is qualified.

But the character qualifications that we see here are primarily character, qualifications, and that flows directly out of the nature of the work. He desires a good work. Now, this doesn't just Belong to the work of an elder. You know, an obedient and diligent And honoring child. The. The one whom god has put in the role of a child has been put in a role of a good work.

You should be seeking to honor God and do good to others and so there's that aiming at what is good and you should labor at it, you should think about how to do it and you should be diligent to prompt and And do it. As onto the Lord, it's a work.

And so, it makes sense. That that which applies of course, not. Not only to you children, but to everyone in every role that we have, we should be seeking to do a good work. We just saw in the Uh what the lady is especially hope to bring to the prayer meeting in first Timothy 2 that their hearts would be full of godliness and their hands would be full of good.

Works. And so it's very important that the one who whom the Lord is called to serve. In this role of authority over spiritual things. Would himself see that service as a good Work. It is a position then of beneficial good activity. Work.

The qualified man will. Keep his household and check then in verse 4. Uh, not just have a household that has kept in, check But he will keep his household in check particularly by being a man of certain qualities that we see in verse 2. And avoiding certain defects that we see in verse 3.

And you will demonstrate the qualities. In his home. Versus four and five in the church or six and in the community verse 7. So we have in verse two and three, then the positive qualities that we can. By which, we can identify the mature man in the Lord has not only Saved.

But now matured and graced grown in grace grace. For this work and then we'll see in verse 3, those negative things that the man must not be. The first is, Very bishop then must be blameless above approach. Nothing in his manner or conduct gives accusers and ungodliness to latch onto Now, certainly he may be accused of being ungodly, he may be unfairly slandered.

And it behaves the church to clear. Anyone in the church who is unfairly slandered. But he himself has not conducted himself in any way. That gives them an ungodliness. To latch onto. This possible for a man to have a good reputation and it not be particularly well deserved. This is not the blameless man.

This is the Teflon man. Uh, his ungodliness has not somehow. Uh, stuck to him. Those who are closer to such a man will have legitimate concerns but it qualified man maintains his integrity. He is Blameless. Weather in the home or in the church or in the community, he's in the second place.

Literally a one woman, man. If there's repeating, because this is going to be Um, repeat it. In verse 12, with reference. Uh, to the deacon. And that this requires him to be a man. You could take the adjective out and see what the qualification is. The the bishop or the overseer is a man.

And then you add the adjective in and here's a one wife, man, or a one woman, man, a particularly with respect to With respect to his own wife, is committed to monogamous marriage. He is committed to living in a way with his wife. That. That honors God in the way that marriage is designed to be.

And he cares about marriage itself. That all husbands would be one woman men. That all wives would be one man. Women Uh this means and it's not an issue in our own denomination but a sister denomination has gone round and round at several general assemblies in a row that it really is.

One of the particular qualifications of a man who will be ordained to the office of elder, especially called as a preacher of the gospel that he holds clearly diligently joyously firmly. Uh, to marriage as god has defined it. Um, And that's not only for himself, but for all anyone who is soft or unclear on this issue and anyone who is unclear on, whether you may identify yourself.

According to a preference that doesn't see marriage as one woman and one man. Simply is not fit. According well, according to biblical morality generally but god gives an explicit Uh, qualification here that excludes? Such men, david. Here you don't have an answer to this that's fine. But my question is in the Old Testament.

You had a man that were not

And it didn't seem To keep them from. Certain offices. Whereas if we had a person in our congregation that was a publicness, it would definitely keep him from certain office and we would probably bring discipline off. Well, in the old testament, god was picking the men by divine inspiration.

And that's how they were being. Anointed to their office. It is very much different when the church is looking god in his purposes. We'll use a wicked man to show the folly of his wickedness. In every situation where you had multiple wives, It was foolish and part of the narrative of the text part of the theological point of the text becomes, how powerful and merciful, god, is that he can even use men who are in such folly and in such sin to bring about the bringing of his son into the world.

Uh, Polygamy begins in the line of came. And you can see every time that there is polygamy in the bible, even if it is from among the sons of god, and the line of able that they are in that particular of their life living, according to the line of cane living, according to the devil.

Um, And god uses sinners. But this idea of god uses sinners cannot become our excuse for selecting people who are marked by a sin. When god has specifically given us qualifications for whom, we are to call. And that's very important, not just in the area of Um, Sexual immorality, but in anything in which a man does not meet the first qualification.

Of a godliness that could not be of an having a goblinsness or rather having no ungodliness that could be latched onto whether by his family who sees him worse than he is. Uh, in front of anybody else they see his worst and Um, You know, we may We may think about this and in our own.

Um, In our own elder and deacon examination process officer examination processes. But it's not a bad idea. For this session to sit down with the family. And to try and get a portrait of what data is like at home and we'll get to that. Uh, we'll get to that especially In verse, Uh, four and five.

Yes. The one quite Single men from Celebration. I would assume that it's up to and including one. One wife. Limited to one wife as opposed to many. Um, Although, It is more difficult. Uh, to Identify and affirm the character. Especially when you get to verse 4 and 5. If the man is not married, if the man does not have children, if the children are not grown to some extent, so that it can be seen, not just that they are kept in submission.

I mean, this was Written to a culture in which all children were kept in submission. Yeah, it was just blow their minds to visit an american walmart and see the way the way. Children, children act now. But the The way that submission is obtained. So you get a child to an age in which they've at least been trained to comply But is that complying?

Out of reverence. Is there that trusting god? That he picked my dad for me and he's using my dad. And so there's a joyous reverent submission. Um, anyway, we're um Origin. Um, Yeah. Originally this is An hour and a half's worth and we're trying to do it. Half an hour.

I'm not sure we're going to get there, but that's Especially when we get to to versus four and five. Um, but yes, thank you for the question. So he's a one woman man. He's faithful He honors, especially his own marriage. But marriage generally, he's committed to the purity of the marriage bed.

This is something that Hebrews 13 picks up. And it's not unrelated. Then in that chapter to verse 7 and verse 17 where the reverencing the marriage bed and considering it pure and to be kept pure and undefiled Is is a mark of those who have led you and spoken, the word to you as verse 7.

And verse 17 of Hebrews 13 described. Um, when the third place, he's temperant, Uh, in in other words he is a man who does not indulge His senses. Uh, in in his tastes and habits, he is not living for the pleasures of the body. He can enjoy what god has.

What god has made but the primary joy for which he lives the primary satisfaction that he finds is that deeper lasting steady joy of the lord. As such this word, tempered also means serious, which is not the same as somber. Someone can be deeply joyful and an elder should be deeply joyful.

It's the second in the list of the aspects of the fruit of the spirit, Um, but he is not A light. Silly superficial man. He's an earnest man. He's a he's a He does life. Sorry, i hate such phrases. Um, Seriously, he's steady. That's also something. An aspect of the idea of being tempered.

He's steady. He's not always Not always coming up with something new. He's not He's not. Um, Yeah, super up and down his temperate. It's very, very closely related to the next word sober-minded, The word means literally that his he is controlled by wisdom. This is a man who learns what god's word says, but he is not always learning and never coming to the truth.

He is always learning and growing in living by the truth. So it's the, it's the truth that he learns and he puts it into application. He's controlled by wisdom which means he's not a pragmatist. Who changes with the situations. But since he's theologically principled, His approach. His approach is formed by scripture, not by situation, he's not an impulsive man.

Who, who changes his approach? In life or in what he does according to his feelings or inclinations. He Lives by theological principle. And this, of course, Is something that all of us want to do? We always want to be learning what god's word says and living. According to that.

Because, God already. And this is going back to temperate. Is our joy is our peace is our satisfaction. And that affects not just the things that we enjoy in life and and how we enjoy them. But it means that we want to be controlled. By the word of god.

Ladies. Especially. If you find that your emotions have their way with you, The, the way out of that is to be controlled by wisdom to be controlled by the fear of the lord. Husband who loves his wife. And doesn't want her to be. Living the life of massive emotional swings, he will want to be consistent for instance, in family worship.

Or even if If it's a season in which he's able to maintain it, Married worship, the husband, and the wife together, so that they're constantly coming back together to the word of god. Constantly. Coming back together to God. Who is our salvation, god, who is their refuge? God who is God, who is their rock?

And it's not like the man doesn't need it either. But if he knows that, that's And different women are different but if it, if he has a wife of the particular constitution, Um, With those. With the swings. Let him. Uh seek all the more for himself to be so reminded and let him attend upon the means by which living a wisdom controlled scripture controlled Particular view of god.

Uh, controlled life happens. He has of good behavior. The inner goodness of the man. Is actually worked out in the things that he does. These hospitable. Literally, he's a friend of strangers. The sort of person who helps as he is able. In a way that exposes a desire. To be a help and refreshment to others.

We are all called to be hospitable. But someone who is going to put himself at expense. For the good and refreshment of others. Uh, that is An essential for an elder being an elder is costly in your time. Being an elder is costly in your labor or it should be.

It's not we're doing it wrongly. Uh, being an older is costly in the taxing of your soul. And when the apostle paul lists his sufferings, in this world, the concern for the churches, And his grief over those. Who are made to stumble is above being beaten with rods and whipped with scourges and shipwrecked.

And the night in the day at sea. And so, there is They're ought to be in this character in the character of this man that he is a friend even of the stranger he's willing to lay himself out to take on expense. Uh, that someone else. Uh, might be helped and refreshed.

And in the last place. Able to teach. This is someone who has been taught. He doesn't just know the truth. But he has mastered it in its connections and proportions. So he's he's not just able to tell you what is true. Uh, but he's able to put it in its right place in the doctrine of the bible, as a whole, which means among other things.

He's always going to be full of who jesus is who the triune god is. And what god has done and how this is worked out in our lives. It's always going to come back. To union with christ. But he shouldn't just know a bunch of true things, he should have the Um, The mastery of the whole, Uh, now the ruling of the elder being done, Especially from the word of god.

The this capacity varies. Uh, but to whatever extent, he has it. Um, That should at least be there to some extent you remember, or maybe not remember, but because we are in chapter 5 yet but there are especially those elders who rule Well, teaching is the great part of shepherding.

Teaching is. The, the great part of the good work. That is that the function of this office Now, these things and we've mentioned, This already in a couple of them blameless. Committed to the purity of monogamous one, man. One woman marriage. Temporary minded. Good behavior hospital. All of these things.

Are things that every christian, Should be seeking to grow in, every man should be seeking. To grow in these things. Um, the longer. Amen, is a christian. The more his own. Picture should be filling out the sketch. Uh, that we have in first, Timothy 3 verse 2. And, A man who is not at least growing in those things, he may not be.

Of a maturity yet or obvious. Um, State of growth yet that others are recognize him as an elder, but a man who has not growing in them at all. Has reason to tremble. At the condition of his soul. Because the elder is going to be someone who liked the apostle says, now imitate me in these things as omitate christ.

And so the believer. Wants to be imitating these things as well. Um,

Probably going to. We'll try and do the. Next two, thirds next week. But it's probably going to end up being three weeks on the elder and then three weeks. On the deacon. Uh, just for your planning purposes, maybe we'll be able to launch. Straight in and finish the elder and do the deacon and one week, we don't know what the Lord will.

Help us to do. Let's pray.

Our father in heaven. We thank you. That you have not left us to our own devices. That you have given us as an important point of theology. What the eldership is like, and What the qualifications for an elder. We pray, lord that you would Be growing all of us in these Wonderful.

Character traits that are produced by the life of christ and those who belong to him by faith. Help us. Now as we come to you through jesus and the worship. Who praise you? That he is our ascension, our tribute, and our peace. We pray that you would help us.

By your spirit that he would stir up faith in jesus christ. And that you would be glorified in the worship of your people. And so we pray that you had oversee even the time between now and when we start that we would use it and employ it. Well, as those who are coming, About to come now to the public worship of god, we ask it in jesus name.

Amen.