

## **1Tim 3:1-13 – OVERSEERS AND DEACONS FOR THE CHURCH’S ADMINISTRATION**

### Overseers (vv. 1-7)

- I. Aspiration for Oversight (v. 1)
  - a. The Greek word rendered oversight is episcopo
    - i. Epi means over
    - ii. Skope means sight
  - b. Overseers and elders refers to the same person
    - i. Elders denotes a person of maturity (Acts 20:17, Acts 20:28)
    - ii. Overseers denotes the function of an elder, to oversee things in the church
  - c. We should all aspire to be an overseer
    - i. Paul says that if anyone aspires to oversight, he desires a good work
    - ii. Aspiration with a pure motive differs from ambition with an impure motive
- II. Qualifications of an Overseer (1 Tim. 3:2-7)
  - a. Without Reproach (v. 2)
    - i. This does not mean to be perfect in the eyes of God
    - ii. This means to have an irreproachable condition
      1. To be right with both God and man
  - b. Husband of one wife
    - i. This implies the restraint of the flesh
  - c. Temperate
    - i. Temperate here means to have self-control
  - d. Of a sober mind
    - i. This means to have the virtue of sobriety
      1. To not only be sensible, but also to be discreet in understanding
      2. One who is sober is keen in his/her understanding
  - e. Orderly
    - i. The Greek word rendered orderly also means decorous
      1. Decorous means to have a behavior that always fits the situation
    - ii. This qualification show how difficult it is to be an elder
      1. Being an elder is one of the most difficult task on earth
      2. However, being an elder is a great blessing to one’s family and to the church
      3. Elders should not be elected, rather they should be burdened by the Lord and chosen according to the insight, oversight, and foresight of the church
  - f. Hospitable
    - i. Hospitality requires love, care for people and endurance
      1. The principle of hospitality is giving without receiving, suffering without requiring anything in return
  - g. Apt to teach

- i. To teach here is similar to parents teaching their children
  - ii. This does not mean every elder should be a teacher
    - 1. Every elder should be apt to teach, but they are not all teachers
- h. Not an excessive drinker (v. 3)
  - i. This qualification requires strong self-control, an elder should not be excessive
- i. Not a striker
  - i. This qualification relates to the control of one's temper
- j. Forbearing
  - i. Forbearing means to deal with people without strictness
- k. Not contentious
  - i. An elder should not be quarrelsome
  - ii. Rather an elder should be peaceable and not debate with others or contend with them
- l. Not fond of money
  - i. This is a great test for an elder
  - ii. Since the church fund is under the elder's management. An elder must realize that the money is not for his personal gain
- m. Managing well his own household (vv. 4-5)
  - i. Managing well his own household is a proof that one is qualified to take the oversight of a church
- n. Not a new convert (v. 6)
  - i. This requirement is set out so that a new one would not be blinded in pride
    - 1. Pride is likened to smoke that clouds the mind
    - 2. One who is blinded by pride may fall into the judgement of the devil
    - 3. Judgement of the devil refers to the judgement Satan was sentenced to
- o. Having a good testimony from those outside (v. 7)
  - i. An elder must be right with himself, with his family, with the church and with those outside

#### Deacons (vv. 8-13)

- I. Qualifications of a Deacon (vv. 8-10)
  - a. Deacons refer to ones serving the church under the direction of the elders
  - b. Grave (v. 8)
    - i. A person who is grave is neither loose nor light
  - c. Not double-tongued
    - i. This does not merely refer to being hypocritical
    - ii. This also refers to the matter of talking too much
      - 1. Deacons should not be informers
      - 2. Restricting the circulation of needless information will improve the church life
  - d. Not addicted to much wine

- i. This is another qualification on self-control
  - e. Not seeking gain by base means
    - i. Deacon should not seek gain from their service to the saints
  - f. Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience (v. 9)
    - i. The mystery of the faith refers to the mysteries of what we believe in
    - ii. By knowing the mystery of the faith, their service will be uplifted
    - iii. To hold the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience is to live according to the mystery
  - g. Unprovable (v. 10)
    - i. This may imply a period of apprenticeship
  - h. Husband of one wife
  - i. Managing his children and his own household well
- II. Qualification of a Deaconesses (v. 11)
  - a. Grave
  - b. Not slanderers
    - i. Corresponds to not being double-tongued
  - c. Temperate
    - i. To be temperate is to exercise self-control
  - d. Faithful in all things
    - i. Corresponds to not seeking gain by base means
- III. Blessing on a good deacon (v. 13)
  - a. Obtaining a good standing
    - i. To serve the church well as a deacon strengthens one's Christian standing
  - b. Obtaining much boldness in faith which is in Christ Jesus
    - 1. To serve the church well strengthens the boldness, the confidence, of the Christian faith