

January 27, 2019

“Be The Guardian”

“...guard what God has entrusted to you...”

1 Timothy 6:20a

“Be the Guardian of Your Leadership”

Chapter 3

“This is a trustworthy saying: ‘If someone aspires to be a church leader, he desires an honorable position.’” 1 Timothy 3:1

A. God equips leaders and leaders prepare themselves...

“So a church leader must be...” Vs 2

1. *“...life about reproach...”* No double life for this servant! They must be well thought of.
2. *“...faithful to his wife...”* Literally committed to mental and physical purity. Totally committed to their spouse.
3. *“...must exercise self-control...”* Able to make good judgments.
4. *“...live wisely...”* Sensible; doesn't live by feelings.
5. *“...have a good reputation...”* Is a good witness to church and family.
6. *“...enjoy having guests in his home...”* Must be willing to demonstrate hospitality. Being hospitable with an open heart and open home.
7. *“...must be able to teach...”* Knows sound doctrine and able to comfortably handle the Word of God as well as able to be taught.
8. *“...must not be a heavy drinker...”* An absence of addictions that would hinder a witness or distract from the gospel. Not being a slave to anything but Jesus.
9. *“...or be violent...”* There is no place for physical violence in the home or community for a leader. He must control his temper. No excuse for abuse!
10. *“...must be gentle...”* Importance of being gracious and not harsh.
11. *“...not quarrelsome...”* Not a fighter but one who loves peace.
12. *“...not love money...”* Must have good financial priorities and be faithful in giving. Generous.
13. *“...must manage his own family well...”* How can one manage the church when his own household is out of order?
14. *“...children who respect and obey him...”* Children living in the home would be respectful and obedient.

15. *“...must not be a new believer...”* There is much to be said about spiritual maturity and the greatest thing is that it does take time and obedience.
16. *“...people outside the church must speak well of him...”* To be respected by unbelievers is quite the litmus test. We are always being watched!

“This is a trustworthy saying: ‘If someone aspires to be a church leader, he desires an honorable position.’” 1 Timothy 3:1

B. God equips deacons and wives in their conduct as they serve in the household of God...

“I am writing these things to you...so...you will know how people must conduct themselves in the household of God. This is the church of the living God, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth.” Vs 14-15

1. Deacons are to be well respected with integrity...not heavy drinkers or dishonest with money. Deacons must be committed to Jesus Christ and have a clear conscience.

“In the same way, deacons must be well respected and have integrity. They must not be heavy drinkers or dishonest with money. They must be committed to the mystery of the faith now revealed and must live with a clear conscience. Before they are appointed as deacons, let them be closely examined. If they pass the test, then let them serve as deacons.” Vs 8-10

2. The wives must be respected and not slander. They must have self-control and be faithful in everything.

“In the same way, their wives must be respected and must not slander others. They must exercise self-control and be faithful in everything they do.” Vs 11

3. A deacon must have his home in order...faithful to his wife and manage his family.

“A deacon must be faithful to his wife, and he must manage his children and household well.” Vs 12

4. All of this will reflect greatly on the body of Christ!

“Those who do well as deacons will be rewarded with respect from others and will have increased confidence in their faith in Christ Jesus.” Vs 13

C. Allow me to share personally about your spiritual leaders...

“Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith.” Hebrews 13:7

1. My wife - Sharon
2. Pastor Ken
3. Pastor Ryan
4. Pastor Branden
5. Pastor Mike
6. Pastor Erik
7. Pastor Immer
8. Pastor Mandy

“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of His body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.” Ephesians 4:11-16

D. So...

“Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith.” 2 Corinthians 13:5

1. How are you keeping your conscience clear?
2. What is your testimony to unbelievers?
3. What is your testimony before leadership?
4. How are you handling your home and family?
5. Would they see you the same outside as you are inside?
6. How are your priorities financially?
7. What is your knowledge base for the Word of God?
8. Have you found your place of service in the body of Christ? In your home? To those in your world?