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# Mentoring 4



**Finding Leaders**  
**1 Timothy 3 & Titus 1**

One of our key needs at USBC is to identify those whom God is calling into Leadership. It would be good to expand our Eldership and Team Leaders. Specific areas of worship, pastoral care and fellowship are particularly poignant.

The NIV Study Bible provides a helpful list of qualities that are to be looked for when considering leadership appointments. This list from 1 Timothy 3 also draws upon Paul's letter to Titus. (Please see back page).

Before referring specifically to this list and guiding principles within it. There are also some key factors for such a consideration.

### **1. Love for Jesus**

John 21 records Jesus spending time with Peter and dealing with his denials of Jesus prior to his death and then his recommissioning to pastoral leadership. Three times Peter is asked by Jesus whether he loves him v15, 16, 17.

Paul writing in 1 Corinthians 13 emphasises the importance of love and how without this quality ministry is futile.

### **2. Prayerful Consideration**

I believe it is significant that before Jesus chose his 12 disciples he spent the night praying Luke 6.12-13. Similarly before Barnabas & Paul were sent off into ministry the prophets and teachers were worshipping and fasting it was within this context that the Holy Spirit spoke to them Acts 13.1-3.

### **3. Emerging Ministry**

Often, as with Barnabas and Saul there is evidence of gifting before a person is appointed to leadership.

### **4. Important qualities**

i. A healthy desire to lead is good 1 Tim 3.1

ii. That Christian character ie what a person is like is of immense importance. Such qualities include, being self controlled, welcoming, temperate, and respectable 1 Timothy 3.2; gentle 3.3; loving what is good, being holy, and disciplined Titus 1.8; and sincere 3.8.

Conversely such a person will not be:

Violent, quarrelsome, a lover of money 1 Timothy 3.3; overbearing Titus 1.7, a drunkard 1 Timothy 3:3,8, Titus 1.7, dishonest 1 Timothy 3.7, Titus 1.7,

### **iii. Ministry & Giftings**

Within 1 Timothy 3 there are 3 areas of ministry described.

i. The Overseer, which can also be translated as elder or bishop. Within Greek society the word was used of a presiding official, therefore it is likely to refer to a person appointed to oversee the Church.

In 1 Timothy 3 teaching is highlighted as a key ministry which involves knowledge of the truth 1 Tim 3.2,8, 5.17, Titus 5.19. An elder is also one who demonstrates Christian maturity and therefore is not a new Christian 1 Timothy 3.6.

ii. Deacons, a word meaning one who serves are also mentioned, here in the plural. As the chart illustrates some of the qualities required for an elder are also required for a deacon.

iii. Deacon's wives or more likely Deaconesses also have specific ministries. I believe the latter is more likely the correct translations as no mention is made of elders wives. A deaconess is also someone who serves.

Paul says that before a person is appointed as a deacon they are to be tested 1 Timothy 3.10. In reality this is important for all three of these ministries.

#### iv. Family Life

The Christian leader is also called to exercise such leadership within the home. 1 Timothy 3:4, 5, 12, Titus 1.1.6. Care of the family is important, as is care of the Church. Should the person be married, then referring to a man they are to have one wife and not be in a polygamous relationship 1 Tim 3.2, 12, Titus 1.6.

#### vi. A good reputation

This is seen by the reputation a person has within and outside of the Church 1 Timothy 3.7.

In short the qualities required are those which are Christlike. Jesus is both our role model and our enabler. These qualities are good for us all. Our calling will vary as will our gifting but the Christlike character is important for us all to emulate. Jesus described in verse 16 is our perfect role model, thank God for His grace. Paul who wrote this letter to Timothy also wrote

*God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup> Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2.8-10*

## Qualifications for Elders/Overseers and Deacons

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Self-controlled	<b>ELDER</b>	ITi 3:2; Tit 1:8	Temperate	<b>ELDER</b>	ITi 3:2; Tit 1:7
Hospitable	<b>ELDER</b>	ITi 3:2; Tit 1:8		<b>DEACON</b>	ITi 3:8
Able to teach	<b>ELDER</b>	ITi 3:2; 5:17; Tit 1:9	Respectable	<b>ELDER</b>	ITi 3:2
Not violent but gentle	<b>ELDER</b>	ITi 3:3; Tit 1:7		<b>DEACON</b>	ITi 3:8
Not quarrelsome	<b>ELDER</b>	ITi 3:3	Not given to drunkenness	<b>ELDER</b>	ITi 3:3; Tit 1:7
Not a lover of money	<b>ELDER</b>	ITi 3:3		<b>DEACON</b>	ITi 3:8
Not a recent convert	<b>ELDER</b>	ITi 3:6	Manages his own family well	<b>ELDER</b>	ITi 3:4
Has a good reputation with outsiders	<b>ELDER</b>	ITi 3:7		<b>DEACON</b>	ITi 3:12
Not overbearing	<b>ELDER</b>	Tit 1:7	Sees that his children obey him	<b>ELDER</b>	ITi 3:4-5; Tit 1:6
Not quick-tempered	<b>ELDER</b>	Tit 1:7		<b>DEACON</b>	ITi 3:12
Loves what is good	<b>ELDER</b>	Tit 1:8	Does not pursue dishonest gain	<b>ELDER</b>	Tit 1:7
Upright, holy	<b>ELDER</b>	Tit 1:8		<b>DEACON</b>	ITi 3:8
Disciplined	<b>ELDER</b>	Tit 1:8	Keeps hold of the deep truths	<b>ELDER</b>	Tit 1:9
Above reproach (blameless)	<b>ELDER</b>	ITi 3:2; Tit 1:6		<b>DEACON</b>	ITi 3:9
	<b>DEACON</b>	ITi 3:9	Sincere	<b>DEACON</b>	ITi 3:1
Husband of one wife	<b>ELDER</b>	ITi 3:2; Tit 1:6	Tested	<b>DEACON</b>	ITi 3:1
	<b>DEACON</b>	ITi 3:12			

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## 1 Timothy 3

### 1 Timothy 3

#### New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

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### 1 Timothy 3

#### Overseers and Deacons

<sup>1</sup> Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task.

<sup>2</sup> Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

<sup>3</sup> not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.

<sup>4</sup> He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.

<sup>5</sup> (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

<sup>6</sup> He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.

<sup>7</sup> He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

<sup>8</sup> Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain.

<sup>9</sup> They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.

<sup>10</sup> They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against

them, let them serve as deacons.

<sup>11</sup> In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

<sup>12</sup> A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well.

<sup>13</sup> Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

<sup>14</sup> Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that,

<sup>15</sup> if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

<sup>16</sup> Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great:

He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

[New International Version - UK \(NIVUK\)](#)

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## **The Message (MSG)**

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### **1 Timothy 3**

#### **Leadership in the Church**

<sup>1-7</sup>If anyone wants to provide leadership in the church, good! But there are preconditions: A leader must be well-thought-of, committed to his wife, cool and collected, accessible, and hospitable. He must know what he's talking about, not be overfond of wine, not pushy but gentle, not thin-skinned, not money-hungry. He must handle his own affairs well, attentive to his own children and having their respect. For if someone is unable to handle his own affairs, how can he take care of

God's church? He must not be a new believer, lest the position go to his head and the Devil trip him up. Outsiders must think well of him, or else the Devil will figure out a way to lure him into his trap.

<sup>8-13</sup>The same goes for those who want to be servants in the church: serious, not deceitful, not too free with the bottle, not in it for what they can get out of it. They must be reverent before the mystery of the faith, not using their position to try to run things. Let them prove themselves first. If they show they can do it, take them on. No exceptions are to be made for women—same qualifications: serious, dependable, not sharp-tongued, not overfond of wine. Servants in the church are to be committed to their spouses, attentive to their own children, and diligent in looking after their own affairs. Those who do this servant work will come to be highly respected, a real credit to this Jesus-faith.

<sup>14-16</sup>I hope to visit you soon, but just in case I'm delayed, I'm writing this letter so you'll know how things ought to go in God's household, this God-alive church, bastion of truth. This Christian life is a great mystery, far exceeding our understanding, but some things are clear enough:

He appeared in a human body,  
was proved right by the invisible Spirit,  
was seen by angels.  
He was proclaimed among all kinds of peoples,  
believed in all over the world,  
taken up into heavenly glory.

[\*The Message\* \(MSG\)](#)

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## **New Living Translation (NLT)**

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### **1 Timothy 3**

#### **Leaders in the Church**

<sup>1</sup> This is a trustworthy saying: "If someone aspires to be an elder,<sup>[a]</sup> he desires an honorable position." <sup>2</sup> So an elder must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife.<sup>[b]</sup> He must exercise self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy

having guests in his home, and he must be able to teach. <sup>3</sup> He must not be a heavy drinker<sup>[c]</sup> or be violent. He must be gentle, not quarrelsome, and not love money. <sup>4</sup> He must manage his own family well, having children who respect and obey him. <sup>5</sup> For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church?

<sup>6</sup> An elder must not be a new believer, because he might become proud, and the devil would cause him to fall.<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>7</sup> Also, people outside the church must speak well of him so that he will not be disgraced and fall into the devil's trap.

<sup>8</sup> In the same way, deacons must be well respected and have integrity. They must not be heavy drinkers or dishonest with money. <sup>9</sup> They must be committed to the mystery of the faith now revealed and must live with a clear conscience. <sup>10</sup> Before they are appointed as deacons, let them be closely examined. If they pass the test, then let them serve as deacons.

<sup>11</sup> In the same way, their wives<sup>[e]</sup> must be respected and must not slander others. They must exercise self-control and be faithful in everything they do.

<sup>12</sup> A deacon must be faithful to his wife, and he must manage his children and household well. <sup>13</sup> Those who do well as deacons will be rewarded with respect from others and will have increased confidence in their faith in Christ Jesus.

### **The Truths of Our Faith**

<sup>14</sup> I am writing these things to you now, even though I hope to be with you soon, <sup>15</sup> so that if I am delayed, 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.

<sup>16</sup> Without question, this is the great mystery of our faith<sup>[f]</sup>:

Christ<sup>[g]</sup> was revealed in a human body  
and vindicated by the Spirit.<sup>[h]</sup>

He was seen by angels  
and announced to the nations.

He was believed in throughout the world  
and taken to heaven in glory.

### **Footnotes:**

- a. [1 Timothy 3:1](#) Or *an overseer, or a bishop*; also in 3:2, 6.
- b. [1 Timothy 3:2](#) Or *must have only one wife, or must be married only once*; Greek reads *must be the husband of one wife*; also in 3:12.
- c. [1 Timothy 3:3](#) Greek *must not drink too much wine*; similarly in 3:8.
- d. [1 Timothy 3:6](#) Or *he might fall into the same judgment as the devil*.
- e. [1 Timothy 3:11](#) Or *the women deacons*. The Greek word can be translated *women* or *wives*.
- f. [1 Timothy 3:16](#) Or *of godliness*.
- g. [1 Timothy 3:16](#) Greek *He who*; other manuscripts read *God*.
- h. [1 Timothy 3:16](#) Or *in his spirit*.

[New Living Translation](#) (NLT)

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## Contemporary English Version (CEV)

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### 1 Timothy 3

#### Church Officials

<sup>1</sup>It is true that <sup>[a]</sup> anyone who desires to be a church official <sup>[b]</sup> wants to be something worthwhile. <sup>2</sup>That's why officials must have a good reputation and be faithful in marriage. <sup>[c]</sup> They must be self-controlled, sensible, well-behaved, friendly to strangers, and able to teach. <sup>3</sup>They must not be heavy drinkers or troublemakers. Instead, they must be kind and gentle and not love money. <sup>4</sup>Church officials must be in control of their own families, and they must see that their children are obedient and always respectful. <sup>5</sup>If they don't know how to control their own families, how can they look after God's people?

<sup>6</sup>They must not be new followers of the Lord. If they are, they might become proud and be doomed along with the devil. <sup>7</sup>Finally, they must be well-respected by people who are not followers. Then they won't be

trapped and disgraced by the devil.

### **Church Officers**

<sup>8</sup>Church officers <sup>[d]</sup> should be serious. They must not be liars, heavy drinkers, or greedy for money. <sup>9</sup>And they must have a clear conscience and hold firmly to what God has shown us about our faith. <sup>10</sup>They must first prove themselves. Then if no one has anything against them, they can serve as officers. <sup>11</sup>Women <sup>[e]</sup> must also be serious. They must not gossip or be heavy drinkers, and they must be faithful in everything they do. <sup>12</sup>Church officers must be faithful in marriage. <sup>[f]</sup> They must be in full control of their children and everyone else in their home. <sup>13</sup>Those who serve well as officers will earn a good reputation and will be highly respected for their faith in Christ Jesus.

### **The Mystery of Our Religion**

<sup>14</sup>I hope to visit you soon. But I am writing these instructions, <sup>15</sup>so that if I am delayed, you will know how everyone who belongs to God's family ought to behave. After all, the church of the living God is the strong foundation of truth.

<sup>16</sup>Here is the great mystery of our religion:

Christ <sup>[g]</sup> came as a human. The Spirit proved  
that he pleased God,  
and he was seen by angels.

Christ was preached  
to the nations.

People in this world  
put their faith in him,  
and he was taken up to glory.

## Footnotes:

- a. [1 Timothy 3:1](#) *It is true that*: These words may be taken with 2.15. If so, that verse would be translated: "It is true that women will be saved. . . holy, and modest." And 3.1 would be translated, "Anyone who desires. . . something worthwhile."
- b. [1 Timothy 3:1](#) *church official*: Or "bishop."
- c. [1 Timothy 3:2](#) *be faithful in marriage*: Or "be the husband of only one wife" or "have never been divorced."
- d. [1 Timothy 3:8](#) *Church officers*: Or "Deacons."
- e. [1 Timothy 3:11](#) *Women*: Either church officers or the wives of church officers.
- f. [1 Timothy 3:12](#) *be faithful in marriage*: See the note at 3.2.
- g. [1 Timothy 3:16](#) *Christ*: The Greek text has "he," probably meaning "Christ." Some manuscripts have "God."

Breathe on me breath of God  
You are beautiful beyond description 621  
Here I am majesty 1827  
You are the mighty king 628  
Beautiful Lord 1184  
Everyone needs compassion 1757