

w/b 10th April 2016 **CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP** - study notes

INTRODUCTION: On Sunday we had a great time as we celebrated Mike Gilson coming into eldership here at Jubilee Church. One of the key biblical passages that considers the whole question of eldership occurs in **1 Timothy chapter 3 verses 1-7**. Here Paul tutors Timothy in the selection process that he should employ in choosing good elders.

The really interesting thing about this list is that it deals almost entirely with character issues. According to Paul, Christian leadership was far more about character than gifting, popularity or personality. So as we look at this important passage together, let's have a think about how we can apply some of these Godly character principles to our own lives.

Given the length of the list, this study is in 2 parts. Part 1 will look at the first half of the list and part 2 (next week) the second half.

3 Here is a trustworthy saying: whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task.

²Now the overseer is to be above reproach,

faithful to his wife,

temperate,

self-controlled,

respectable,

hospitable, able to teach,

³ not given to drunkenness,

not violent but gentle,

not quarrelsome,

not a lover of money.

⁴He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. ⁵(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

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

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

DISCOVERY

- As you consider this list for your own life, in what area would you count yourself weak and in what area would you count yourself strong?

UNDERSTANDING

- The phrase 'faithful to one wife' suggests a standard of moral purity. What are the significant threats to moral purity that we encounter in our society and how do we go about resisting them?
- Temperate is an interesting word. What do you think it means?
- One author has suggested that a temperate person does not hold extreme views. Do you agree with this? What extreme views are emerging in society today and what should the Christian response to those views be?
- Respectable is also an interesting word. What does it mean within a Christian context and what does it not mean? What are some of the ways we as Christians can lose respect in the workplace and how can this end up damaging our witness?
- Hospitality is a key and wonderful Christian attribute. What are some of the creative ways in which we can practise hospitality to those around us

APPLICATION

- Spend some time praying for one another that you will excel in some of these qualities discussed above

Many of the questions were taken or adapted from
Gene Getz : The Measure of a Man - Revell publishing