

INTRODUCTION: Last week we looked at the first half of Paul's list of character traits necessary for eldership within the local church.

As we continue with part 2 of our list of Christian qualities, it becomes apparent that they are attributes that all should aspire to.

### **1 Timothy chapter 3 verses 1 - 7**

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

<sup>2</sup>Now the overseer is to be above reproach,

faithful to his 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, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full 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.

## DISCOVERY

- Who was your favourite teacher at school? What made them such a good teacher?

## UNDERSTANDING

- In what areas are you being called to teach others within the church?  
Are there any ways in which you would like to develop that teaching gift?  
Pray for those in the group who have a teaching role.
- Sharing the gospel with others also includes a necessary teaching aspect.  
Can you think of anyone with whom a conversation about Christianity is potentially going to occur? What do you want to discuss?  
Pray for opportunities for some great conversations to take place.
- Paul made clear that Christian leaders should not be given to drunkenness.  
Why is this important?  
How can we guard ourselves from drinking to excess?
- In what areas do you find yourself becoming angry?  
How is this worked out or put another way how do you express your anger?  
What is the best way for you to learn how to manage your anger?
- What are the defining features of a quarrelsome man or woman?  
In what ways can such an approach be damaging to the church?
- How can we check our hearts in order to make sure that Christ is the centre of our affections and not money or possessions?

## APPLICATION

- Go round the group and ask whether anyone would like prayer for anything that you have discussed this evening