

The Functions and Qualities of Elders. (Part 1)

Discussion Guide

Text: I Tim. 3:1-2 (v. 3-7 next week)

Open:

1. What is a position you have desired in the past? Please tell about how that desire affected you?
2. What can we do to encourage boys/men to desire the work of a shepherd? (Be concrete & practical with your ideas)
3. What do you understand our time line to be for ordaining additional leadership if someone is willing and qualified?

Dig:

1. Do you see the qualifications for pastors/elders in I Tim. 3 being primarily internal or external qualifications? Why do you suppose that is so?
2. The NIV will say in vs. 1, "If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer..." What all does that imply?
3. There might be some things we don't know with absolute surety about the phrase "the husband of one wife", or "a one woman man" but what does it clearly say to someone who wishes to be a shepherd?
4. From the terms we studied this morning describe the character of someone with the maturity to be a bishop/elder in the church.
5. Are these men to have reached a state of perfection? If not what should we expect of them?

Reflect:

1. Are these qualities ones that every Christian should be striving toward? (If not, why not?)
2. Which of the qualities that we went over this morning are you the most in need of growing in?

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