

What can the take away be?

“Letters to Timothy” – Part 5
“Leadership Guardrails” – 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Ephesus:

It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), and not a new convert, so *that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

A Type of Elder:

1 Timothy 3:1-7 [NASB]

What is not on this list?

The saying is true and irrefutable; if any man [eagerly] seeks the office of bishop [superintendent, overseer], he desires an excellent task [work]. Now the bishop [superintendent, overseer] must give no grounds for accusation but must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, circumspect and temperate and self-controlled; [he must be] sensible and well-behaved and dignified and lead an orderly [disciplined] life; [he must be] hospitable [showing love for and being a friend to the believers, especially strangers or foreigners, [and be] a capable and qualified teacher, not given to wine, not combative, not quarrelsome but forbearing and peaceable, and not a lover of money [insatiable for wealth and ready to obtain it by questionable means]. He must rule his own household well, keeping his children under control, with true dignity, commanding their respect in every way and keeping them respectful. For if a man does not know how to rule his own household, how is he to take care of the church of God? He must not be a new convert, or he may [develop a beclouded and stupid state of mind] as the result of pride [be blinded by conceit, and] fall into the condemnation that the devil [once] did. Furthermore, he must have a good reputation and be well thought of by those outside [the church], lest he become involved in slander and incur reproach and fall into the devil's trap.

1 Timothy 3:1-7 [Amplified]

How can we apply this to ourselves and our church?

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What does it all mean?

Aspires to the office of Overseer or Bishop
Overseer is to be:

1. Above reproach-anepileptos-without reproach/
blameless; give no grounds for accusation

Nothing can be used against him
2. The husband of one wife-[faithful to his wife] (NIV)

Eyes for “you” alone / married to one person
3. Temperate-nephaloin-[self-controlled, circumspect,
thoughtful]

Good boundaries when needed /No is No/ Yes is Yes
(another way of saying self-controlled)
4. Prudent-sophrona-[sensible, self-controlled]

Honors the place of others /no favorites /no surprises
5. Respectable-kusmion-[orderly, disciplined, dignified]
6. Hospitable-thiloghenon-[friendly to visiting believers]

Open home to believing strangers
7. Able to teach-didaktikon-[capable, skilled teacher]

Has the skill to instruct [doctrinal truth teaching implied]
8. Not addicted to wine-paroinon-[not excessive drinker]
or pugnacious-plekten-[not a striker, not violent]

Deals well with being sober-minded/ willing to be self-
Controlled/Not prone to being defensive or ranting

9. Gentle-epieike-[forbearing, yielding, considerate]

Able to see both sides and deal calmly with others;
encourages, accepting

10. Peaceable-amaxon-[not contentious, quarrelsome]

Calm in facing relational troubles/ an active listener

11. Free from the love of money

Not trusting in riches for security; not gaining riches by
any means

12. Manages his own household-[rule, lead family]

Hands-on family man. Family is a priority; aware of what is
going on; on top of dealing rightly with the family
responsibilities unless he thinks he is more important than
he is

13. Not a new convert-[recent; neophyte]

Not experientially prepared to handle the attacks of
the devil

14. Must have a good reputation-[good witness, testimony]

His testimony is well-received by those who are not
believers; he has good relationships with unbelievers;
well-known to be good at “agree to disagree”