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# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church  
Grand Prairie, Texas**



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## God's Gift of Leadership A Study in 1 Timothy

Date	Lesson	Text
03/08	Introduction	
03/15	Strength to Serve	1:12-20
03/22	Need for Prayer	2:1-8
03/29	Leadership in Family	2:9-15
04/05	Bro. Smarto	
04/12	Easter—Bro. Smarto	
<b>04/19</b>	<b>Call for Leaders Pt 1</b>	<b>3:1-7</b>
04/26	Call for Leaders Pt 2	3:8-15
05/03	Guide for Teaching	4:1-16
05/10	MOTHER'S DAY	
05/17	Need for Respect	5:1-24

### Food for Thought

#### Following

Only as we follow Christ can we lead others in the right direction

*Follow my example, as  
I follow the example of Christ.  
1 Cor 11:1 (NIV)*

*(From "Our Daily Bread" - 05/13/07)*

## CALL FOR GODLY LEADERS PT 1 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-7

When men are confused about their roles in church leadership, an identity crisis results. Sadly, there are some who do not understand the nature of the office they occupy. Some do not understand the relationship of one church office to another. Some are in positions for which, unknowingly, they are not yet qualified. These types of situations lead to a disruptive spirit. Love, harmony, and unity are displaced by suspicion, a critical spirit, and the impugning of motives. Such a situation renders the witness of the church impotent. **This lesson examines what God desires for church leadership. When His desires are implemented, the church can function effectively. The result is a unity that attracts the unbeliever.** This fulfills God's purpose for his church. Having a kingdom perspective makes the difference in one's attitude toward positions of leadership and toward the people in those positions. If one perceives power, control, and "calling the shots" to be the main issues of church leadership positions, then skepticism and cynicism will result. Such attitudes inhibit a willing and joyful support of church leadership. **Negative attitudes can be turned around by those who serve in leadership positions. The turnaround occurs when service comes from a love of Christ, of the church, and an opportunity for service.** When that happens, the members of the church respond with a like attitude. Self or kingdom: that choice is what makes the difference in the spirit and life of a church. The apostle Paul was concerned about the care of the churches. The first-century churches needed wise oversight because of a diversity of ethnic, cultural, and economic backgrounds. The needs were complex (compare [Acts 6:1](#); [1 Corinthians 11:20-22](#); [James 2:2-4](#)). What was required was church leadership that would give proper direction, make wise decisions, and be a role model that inspired confidence and compliance on the part of its members. So Paul set forth characteristics that were to be found in the lives of those who assume leadership responsibility in the church. Generally speaking, **these characteristics should be found in every Christian's life.** Those who have become mature in the ways that Paul speaks about are the ones to be considered as leaders. As such, they become examples for the entire body of believers ([1 Timothy 4:12](#); [Titus 2:7, 8](#)). The term *qualifications* is most frequently associated with the listing that Paul provides in today's text. This terminology can lend itself to a legalistic approach to the selection process if it means a harsh, severe demand for perfection. Perhaps a better term would be *qualities*. This does not imply a casual or indifferent approach to Paul's instructions. Nor does it compromise the traits desired for biblical leadership. Rather, the term *qualities* speaks of a type of a man whose life is exemplary and commands respect; he is one who has demonstrated ability and a Christian spirit. *(Excerpts from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

Many churches throughout Christian history have learned the hard way that Paul's practical wisdom and godly direction for choosing leaders should not be ignored. Many other churches have enjoyed times of wise leadership specifically by using Paul's guidelines for selecting bishops and deacons. Paul's protege, Timothy, was working with the churches in Ephesus, part of Asia Minor. This relatively new movement of churches would need to be careful in selecting leaders to be sure they were men whose practice was godly. Although not all of us will be leaders, Paul's list of qualifications for bishops and deacons can be a lesson to all. If the leaders of the church need to have qualities like temperance and hospitality, all followers of Jesus should emulate these qualities. The character of church leaders commanded by Paul involves some very practical issues. Family life should be strong, with love and godliness evident. Self-control and the ability to avoid excessive pleasure and addiction are very important. Honest speech is to be valued in leaders. *(Excerpts from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### QUALITIES OF A GODLY LEADER (1 TIM 3:1-7)

#### *Willingness to serve (vs 1)*

- A willingness that says send me (Isa 6:8)
- A willingness that results in humble availability (1 Sam 3:10)
- A willingness that manifests itself in an eagerness to serve (1 Peter 5:2)
- A willingness that results in immediate obedience (Matt 4:18-20)
- A willingness to listen and follow (John 10:26-28)

#### *Blameless and guiltless (vs 2)*

- Blameless and guiltless because God chose us (Eph 1:4)
- Blameless and guiltless because of the gift of discernment (Phil 1:9-11)
- Blameless and guiltless because of doing everything without complaining or arguing (Phil 2:14-15)
- Blameless and guiltless because of God strengthening our hearts (1 Thess 3:13)
- Blameless and guiltless because of being entrusted with God's work (Titus 1:7)

#### *Temperate and content (vs 3)*

- Temperate and content through patience (1 Thess 5:14)
- Temperate and content through pursuit of righteousness (1 Tim 6:11)
- Temperate and content because of being a servant of God (2 Tim 2:24)
- Temperate and content through God's strength (Phil 4:11-13)
- Temperate and content through godliness (1 Tim 6:6-10)

#### *Family leader (vs 4-5)*

- A family leader that ensures his house serves God (Josh 24:15)
- A family leader that allows no deceit or lies (Ps 101:7)
- A family leader that is devout (Acts 10:1-3)
- A family leader whose household are believers (Titus 1:6)
- A family leader that knows that God sees a family as "one" (Mal 2:15)
- A family leader that provides for his family (1 Tim 5:8)

#### *Experienced and tested (vs 6-7)*

- Experienced and tested through testing the spirits (1 John 4:1)
- Experienced and tested through being known to be full of the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:3)
- Experienced and tested through examination (2 Cor 13:5-7)
- Experienced and tested through self-examination (Gal 6:4)
- Experienced and tested of holding on to good (1 Thess 5:21)
- Experienced and tested through perseverance (James 1:12)