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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	
04/19	Call for Leaders Pt 1	3:1-7
<b>04/26</b>	<b>Call for Leaders Pt 2</b>	<b>3:1-16</b>
05/03	Guide for Teaching	4:1-16
05/10	MOTHER'S DAY	
05/17	Need for Respect	5:1-24

### Food for Thought

#### Servant Leaders

The best translation of God's Word  
That we will ever read  
Is found in servants of the Lord  
Who live that Word in deed

*Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

Heb 13:17 NIV

(From "Our Daily Bread" - 09/04/2000)

## CALL FOR GODLY LEADERS PT 2

### 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-16

Neither time nor the purpose of this lesson permits us to go into detail about the qualifications for church leaders that Paul sets down in 1 Timothy 3. What we should note is that by laying down these character qualifications Paul indirectly deals with the false teachers who have made their appearance in the church at Ephesus. There are two ways to detect false teachers: (1) by their doctrine; and, (2) by their conduct. This is why Paul exhorts Timothy to be diligent about both in his personal life - *Be conscientious about how you live and what you teach. Persevere in this, because by doing so you will save both yourself and those who listen to you* (1 Timothy 4:16).

The church at Ephesus already had elders (Acts 20:17-35). Paul has already indicated that some of these elders would depart from the faith and become false teachers (Acts 20:29-30). I would understand that while these qualifications surely were meant to be used as standards for all new elders and deacons, they were also to be applied to existing elders and deacons. If any leader at Ephesus failed to meet these standards, it would obligate him to step down, or the church to remove him from office. The main purpose here is to show how these qualifications fit into the overall message and purpose of Paul's first letter to Timothy. The final verses of chapter 3 make it crystal clear that **Paul's purpose in writing this letter to Timothy was to set down instructions regarding the conduct of men and women in the church** (1 Timothy 3:14-16).

The instructions Paul gives in 1 Timothy are instructions regarding conduct in the church. These are to be understood as Paul's authoritative teaching through Timothy, due to his absence. We can certainly say that for the centuries that Paul has been absent because of his martyrdom, his words of instruction live on, with the same authority they had for the church in Ephesus. **We can be inclined to understand verse 16 as a very concise doctrinal creed.** It may have been a portion of an ancient hymn. It may have been written by someone else at an earlier date. But it is nonetheless a concise summary of Christian doctrine. It declares the incarnation of our Lord ("He was revealed in the flesh"). It states that the claims of our Lord were vindicated by the miraculous works He accomplished through the power of the Holy Spirit. The gospel of salvation through faith in His atoning work was proclaimed to the Gentiles (something the Jewish extremists did not like at all – see Luke 4:16-30; Acts 22:21-22), and He was believed on in the world. He was raised from the dead, and He ascended into heaven, seated at the right hand of God.

(Excerpts from "Creation to the Cross" By Bob Deffinbaugh)

## 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 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)

### QUALITIES OF A GODLY DEACON (1 TIM 3:8-13)

#### *Doctrinally and morally sound (vs 9)*

- Doctrinally and morally sound in teaching (Titus 2:1)
- Doctrinally and morally sound through holding on to godly teachings (Titus 1:9)
- Doctrinally and morally sound in spite of what others are pursuing (2 Tim 4:3)
- Doctrinally and morally sound in the teachings of Jesus (2 John 9-11)
- Doctrinally and morally sound in the secret things of God (1 Cor 4:1-2)
- Doctrinally and morally sound through the administration of God's grace (Eph 3:2-5)

#### *Blessings of service (vs 13)*

- Blessing of being chosen (Rom 10:15)
- Blessing of receiving God's promises (Mark 10:29-30)
- Blessing of knowing that God rewards godly service (Heb 6:10)

### REASONS FOR BEING GODLY (1 TIM 3:14-16)

#### *Instructions for conduct (vs 15)*

- Conduct that is worthy of the gospel of Christ (Phil 1:27)
- Conduct that is based on actions not words (1 John 3:18)
- Conduct that is holy and godly (2 Peter 3:11)
- Conduct that has been trained in godliness (1 Tim 4:7)

#### *Making the Church the pillar of truth (vs 15)*

- A Church that overcomes (Matt 16:18-20)
- A Church that bears fruit (Col 1:5-6)
- A Church whose people are God's building (1 Cor 3:9)
- A Church that is courageous and full of hope (Heb 3:6)