



Pastor Gary Clark
Sermon Guide Notes: May 24, 2026

God's Blueprint for Spiritual Leadership

1 Timothy 3:1-7

One Sentence Sermon

God does not entrust His church to gifted men alone, but to godly men whose lives reflect Christ.

Remember

The qualifications for an elder are more than a checklist for church leaders; they are a portrait of spiritual maturity **that every believer should pursue.**

Sermon Notes

1. The Desire for Leadership (v.1)

"If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work."

Key Truth:

- Eldership is **not about a title, it is about a work.**
- A true elder does not seek:
 - Recognition
 - Position

He desires leadership because he wants to:

- Serve God's people
- Shepherd the flock
- Do the work God has called him to do

A true elder is not chasing a title, he is willing to do the work.



2. The Character of Leadership (v.2)

“A bishop then must be blameless...”

Key Truth:

- God starts with **character before gifting**

Blameless means:

- Not sinless perfection
- A life **above reproach**
- No obvious pattern of compromise
- A life marked by:
 - Integrity
 - Repentance
 - Grace
 - Growth

God is not just looking at gifting—He is looking at character.

3. The Home of Leadership (v.2-5)

“The husband of one wife... one who rules his own house well...”

- Spiritual leadership begins at home.

An elder should be:

- Faithful in marriage
- Loving in leadership
- Respected in his home
- Balanced in his authority

A man who leads God’s church must first lead well in his own home.

4. The Temperament of Leadership (v.2-3)

Paul describes a man who is:

- **Temperate** – self-controlled
- **Sober-minded** – thinks clearly
- **Of good behavior** – lives an orderly life



- **Hospitable** – loves strangers and makes room for people
- **Gentle** – not harsh or combative

A spiritual leader should be steady, balanced, approachable, and under control.

5. The Spiritual Maturity of Leadership (v.6)

“Not a novice...”

- Leadership requires maturity.

A new believer may have:

- Passion
- Excitement
- Early victories

But leadership also requires:

- Humility
- Testing
- Spiritual depth

The church needs seasoned men with character—not just clever characters.

6. The Reputation of Leadership (v.7)

“He must have a good testimony among those who are outside...”

- A leader’s life must match his message.

He should have:

- Integrity in church
- Integrity at home
- Integrity in the community

If a man’s life discredits the gospel, he is not qualified to lead the church.



Simple Summary

An elder must be:

- ✓ **Called to serve**
- ✓ **Marked by character**
- ✓ **Faithful at home**
- ✓ **Mature in faith**
- ✓ **Credible before the world**

Final Thought:

**The issue is not perfection—it is direction.
Are you still growing? Are you still climbing?**

Thanks for being here today, Blessings. Remember the Spaghetti dinner, (Everyone) The Gettysburg trip (men)

Blessings

Pastor Gary

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