

## OVERSEERS, ELDER, PASTOR

*From the series – 1 TIMOTHY: EVERY MOMENT, EVERY DAY*

### SUMMARY...

We don't often view ourselves as leaders, that is unless we have that title, role, or position. But a gospel truth often neglected or forgotten is that because Jesus Christ lives within us {see [Colossians 1:25-27](#)}, we are all leaders. There will be some who are called to a specific role of leadership within the Body of Christ, but regardless of title or position, what Christ-followers must not forget is that we are called to lead others in word and deed to Jesus.

### THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND...

Church leadership affects every follower of Jesus. And sadly, many Christ-followers have been negatively impacted by leaders within the church who were more concerned with power and prestige rather than modeling Christlikeness to the community entrusted to their care. As Timothy is a young pastor of a young church in Ephesus, the Apostle Paul knew that it would be crucial to the health of the church to establish leaders who would exemplify Christlikeness.

Paul's method of church planting involved establishing 'overseers' to serve as spiritual leaders and authorities within the community – see [Acts 14:23](#). There are three titles that are often used interchangeably to refer to the same person holding the same position or role within the church: overseer, elder and pastor. In [1 Timothy 3:1-7](#), Paul does not give so much a job description of what 'overseers' do as much as he gives a description of who 'overseers' are called to be. The focus is on the character of the one called because 'overseers' are ultimately called to serve as example of how to look and live like Jesus – see [Hebrews 13:7](#).

### CONNECT...

What makes for a great leader? Who are some great leaders that have impacted you and what was it about their leadership that made such a difference in your life? Do you view yourself as a leader? If not, why not? How should the realities of [Colossians 1:27](#) shape our understanding of seeing ourselves as leaders?

### LEARN... BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION

1. Read [1 Timothy 3:1-7](#) – begin by making some general observations about this text, specifically thinking about what stands out to you about leadership within the church? In these few verses, what is most encouraging to you? And what is most challenging to you?
2. Read [1 Timothy 3:1](#) – three times in Paul's letter to Timothy he says 'this is a trustworthy saying.' What is the trustworthy statement that Paul makes that he does not want us to miss? And why is this noted as a 'trustworthy' statement?

3. What is the connection that Paul makes between 'aspire' and 'desire?' What is it that you are aspiring to – is it something about you or something God wants to do with and through you?
4. Read [1 Timothy 3:2](#) – what does it mean to live life 'above reproach?' What do we learn from Daniel about living life above reproach – read [Daniel 6:4-5](#).
5. In [1 Timothy 3:2-7](#), the Apostle Paul list 17 'character checks.' That is to say, he outlines what above reproach looks like for those aspiring to serve as 'overseers.' How do these 'character checks' encourage you? And how should these 'character checks' challenge all Christ followers?

#### ACT...

Not all will be called to serve as 'overseers' but take some time to share with your GROUP where you believe God is calling you to lead in order to help build up the Body of Christ.

And for those who aspire towards serving as an 'overseer', in light of [1 Timothy 3:2-7](#), how would you respond to the following questions of 'affirmation':

- Do you affirm you?
- If married, does your wife affirm you?
- If a father, do your children affirm you?
- Do those around (neighbor, coworkers, etc.) affirm you?

How might these affirmations (or lack of affirmations) help guide your next steps?

#### COMING SOON...

- NEW SERVICES TIMES – beginning, Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, GENESIS will gather at 8:30AM and 10AM.
- CHAPTER ONE – Sunday, May 2 @8:30AM. This class will be virtual and gives you the opportunity to LEARN about GENESIS. You can RSVP for this one-hour class here: [genesisthejourney.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/296162](https://genesisthejourney.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/296162)
- GROUP 101 – Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> @8:30AM. Anyone who wants to learn about the role and expectations of leading a GROUP should attend this informational class. Please contact Lori for more information: [l.marcotte@genesiswoburn.com](mailto:l.marcotte@genesiswoburn.com)
- FAMILY MEETING – Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> – 5PM to 6:30PM. Don't miss this opportunity to hear updates and fresh stories about ALL that is happening within our GENESIS community!

#### SERMON ONLINE –

<https://www.genesisthejourney.com/sermon/overseer-elder-pastor/>