

Heavy Duty

Preparation for Sunday, March 3, 2013 “The Character of Leadership”

Monday - Tuesday

1. Above Reproach – Read 1 Timothy 3: 1-7

- What is it about church leadership that is “noble?”
- At first, this saying doesn’t seem to be quite as foundational as last week’s trustworthy saying. But keep in mind Paul was basically drawing up the blueprints for how the church would be organized. So why was it important to establish the value of the pastor’s job?
- How are Paul’s instructions for the qualifications of an overseer to be used by the church? Are they an evaluation tool for our current leadership? A search committee checklist for future pastors? Or are they something else?
- What do you think your pastor needs weekly in order to fulfill the responsibility of being “an able teacher?”
- Respond to verses 4 and 5. The stereotype of preacher’s kids is that they can be on the wild side. To what extent is a pastor responsible for the choices his children make? Is he more responsible than any other parent?
- What does it mean for a pastor to “have a good reputation among outsiders?”
- Why is it important for an overseer to be a mature Christian?

Wednesday - Thursday

2. Worthy of Respect – Read 1 Timothy 3:8-13

- How does this list compare with the list you have studied for overseers? What is in common? Do you see anything different?
- What can you do to help facilitate these qualities in the overseers and deacons/elders at your church?
- How does the attitude, demeanor, and spiritual maturity of a spouse reflect on the deacon/elder? Does this make us uncomfortable?
- We often think of servants as being most comfortable behind the scenes. Yet, verse 13 talks about deacons/elders having “great boldness” in their faith. Can a “behind the scenes” servant still be bold in their faith? In what ways?
- What did Paul mean when he set aside this special role?
- How did Jesus describe the attitude of service in Mark 10:42-44. How do you think this differs from many people’s view of deacons today?

Friday - Saturday

3. And Not Just the Leaders – Read 1 Timothy 3:14-15

- Think of someone very important to you. What would you most want to communicate to him or her if you weren't sure you would see them again?
- Do you think Paul was aware that his time on earth was coming to a close? How do you see that in these verses?
- Paul knew the importance of passing on truth to the next generation. Do we have that same awareness today?
- What do you know from other passages in Scripture that support the idea that all believers are expected to live holy lives?
- Based on our study, how should people act in "God's household?"
- Why does it matter how we live our lives "outside of church?" If we understand the church as the family of God, then there really is no such thing as life "outside the church."
- What consequences result within the body when we do not choose leaders wisely, love one another, honor our leaders, and live holy lives?
- What consequences result in the non-believing community when Christians do not choose leaders wisely, love one another, honor leaders and live holy lives?

Additional Reading for this Week:

1. Overseers and Bishops
2. Deacons in the Early Church
3. The Office of the Bishop