

**CHARACTER QUALITIES FOR ALL PASTORS – 1 TIMOTHY 3:2-7**

Part one of our last message revealed that the list of \_\_\_\_\_ qualities in 1 Timothy 3:2-13 apply to every member of the local church respectively. However, these were written directly to \_\_\_\_\_ and deacons with their families. Considering the countless personality traits recorded throughout scripture, why are only these listed? We can be certain all the other attributes equally apply, for if any were abused there would be problems. So, why only some? Could it be that these particular qualities represent the challenges pastors and deacons face while performing their duties? Today we will study the qualities a pastor \_\_\_\_\_ exemplify.

1. The pastoral character qualities of 1 Timothy 3:2-7

a. As they apply to him \_\_\_\_\_ – verses 2-3

- Blameless – not sinless, not unaccused; \_\_\_\_\_ justly blamed of a wrongdoing  
This is the first quality listed, and because of its very nature all other qualities flow from it  
If we meet this quality, it fulfills all the other listed qualities – Acts 24:16
- The husband of one wife – only one wife; total devotion to one wife  
The Mosaic law permitted more than one wife—however, only one for a pastor  
Back then and in some cultures today men can have more than one wife – nope, only one for a pastor  
A pastor can be a single man, but it is needful and much more helpful if he is married – Ecc. 4:9-12  
None of these character qualities can be accomplished without a \_\_\_\_\_ wife  
  
Note: Biblically, there are three things that justify the end of a marriage:
  - 1) Death of your spouse – Ro. 7:3
  - 2) Divorce due to a willfully unrepentant spousal desertion – 1 Cor. 7:15
  - 3) Divorce due to unrepentant spousal unfaithfulness (fornication/adultery) – Mt. 5:32; 19:9
- Vigilant – to keep watch, to stay alert and watchful especially for \_\_\_\_\_; to be ready and \_\_\_\_\_
- Sober – sensible, in control of your emotions and actions, not overboard in any area; moderate – Phil. 4:5
- Of good behaviour – orderly, personal life is well arranged, doing good things not questionable or unseemly things
- Given to hospitality – giving, friendly, sensitive to the needs of others, empathetic; caring for others, friendly treatment of guests and \_\_\_\_\_
- Apt to teach – teaching ability, naturally instructs others without condescension; it also indicates someone that is always learning and teachable

- Not given to wine – abstains from the social use of alcohol or the use of alcohol for any purpose other than medicinal
- No striker – anger to the point of physical violence
- Not greedy of filthy lucre – money received by improper means or motives; selfish, not satisfied
- Patient – the capacity to accept or tolerate delay and adversity without complaint
- Not a brawler – not one that seeks out confrontations and controversies
- Not covetous – eager to have more and more things that others possess

b. As they apply to his \_\_\_\_\_ – verses 4-5

- One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity –  
For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?  
It is true a child of a pastor may rebel, but is the rebellious spirit because of the parents *poor character*, or in spite of the parents *good behaviour*?

c. As they apply in the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ – verses 6-7

- Not a novice – not in a position of leadership before they have been tested, proven and qualified, not inexperienced in ministry  
Lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil
- He must have a good report of them which are without  
Lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil

## 2. Important considerations

- a. Most churches throughout history have more than one ordained pastor – Acts 14:23; 15:23; 16:4; 20:17; Titus 1:5; Phil. 1:1
  - These character qualities are a *must* for all ordained pastors, not just the lead or senior pastor
- b. No pastor can work these character qualities out perfectly – Is. 35:4; Pr. 27:9, 17; Ro. 7:18-19, 24-25; 8:8; 2 Ti. 1:8; 2:13; Heb. 10:24; James 1:2; 1 Peter 4:12-13
  - Nonetheless, he must do all he can to achieve them
  - He must always examine and evaluate his life
  - He must always be challenged and growing in his faith and work
  - He must have a multitude of counsellors that will constructively challenge and help him
  - He must always stay close to the Lord in prayer, Bible reading and study
  - He must always do his very best for the Lord and the local church