



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



The First Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy

Chapter 3

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Introduction

- It takes certain qualifications to be a servant of God
- These qualifications are about:

Desire	Experience
Attitude	Reputation
Discipline	Faith
Ability to teach	



The Bishop (1 Tim 3:1-7)

- The word “bishop” means “overseer”
- 1 Tim 2:11-14 was an introduction to disprove to the priesthood of women
- The desire of the bishop should be the good works that he wants to do
- The credentials have to do with the character



The Bishop (1 Tim 3:1-7)

- Blameless: one who affords nothing upon which an adversary might seize, in order to make a charge against him
- Husband of one wife: Neither St. Paul nor Timothy were married
- Polygamists were excluded from the position of Bishop



The Bishop (1 Tim 3:1-7)

- Temperate: is to abstain from wine
- Sober-minded: is to be of a sound mind
- Of good behavior: to conform to standards of conduct and good taste
- Hospitable: to be a friend of strangers
- Able to teach: apt and skillful in teaching



The Bishop (1 Tim 3:1-7)

- Not given to wine (gentle): reasonable, equitable, fair-minded
- Not violent (not quarrelsome): may be discerned by one's speech when dealing with opposing ideas
- Not greedy (not covetous): does he have an ambition to accumulate unnecessary resources to himself?



The Bishop (1 Tim 3:1-7)

- The Bishop is a manager
- How well one manages his children (submissive and reverent)
- St. Paul is referring to appropriate effort rather than actual achievement
- Novice: their level of maturity as a Christian



The Bishop (1 Tim 3:1-7)

- Those who have not learned under submission, but are too soon elevated to positions of authority, these almost inevitably fall into pride
- He should have a good reputation among non-Christians
- Let it not be that he be spoken evil of legitimately



The Deacon (1 Tim 3:8-13)

- Deacons manage the practical affairs of the church
- Reverent: being revered or honored for one's deeds and character
- Not double-tongued: to say one thing with one person another with another (with the intent to deceive)



The Deacon (1 Tim 3:8-13)

- The Christian faith is a mystery revealed
- As with any responsibility, the persons must show themselves qualified
- The wife who serves must be honorable
- She must not be prone to falsely accusing others



The Deacon (1 Tim 3:8-13)

- She must not develop fleshly habits as in the regular consumption of wine
- She must be trustworthy in all things
- Fathers nowadays are less viewed as having authority over their children
- Accountability and responsibility

The Church (1 Tim 3:14-16)



- Face to face ministry
- The house of God is that place in which God dwells
- The church is the pillar and the ground of the truth
- The Incarnation of the Logos is the mystery of the church's godliness



The Church (1 Tim 3:14-16)

- Justified in the Spirit: by His words; His works; His Father's testimony at His baptism, and at the Transfiguration; and by His Resurrection
- Angels saw the Son of God with us, not having seen Him before [Chrysostom]



The Church (1 Tim 3:14-16)

- What angels came to know by seeing, the Gentiles learned by preaching
- He was believed on in the world
- He was received up in glory
- His reception in heaven answers to His reception on earth by being “believed on.”



Conclusion

- What are the qualifications required for a bishop?
- What are the qualifications required for a deacon?
- What are the qualifications required for the wives of deacons?
- What does St. Paul call the house of God?
- What are the basic facts of the mystery of godliness?