

## **BUILDING A MODEL HOME**

### **1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-6**

I have a **quiz** for you: Name 3 wealthiest men in the world.

Name the last 3 Heisman trophy winners.

Name the last 3 winners of the Miss America contest.

How did you do? So much for fame!!! **Another quiz:**

Name 3 people who've made a difference in your life.

Name 3 teachers who helped you learn important lessons.

Do better? What makes the difference?

**People who make a difference: NOT people with big names;**

**People who make a difference:**

**people who model something we imitate!**

People watch "Christians;" want to know if our faith is genuine.

They want to know if "Christian" they work next to is real,

if the faith we profess makes a difference in the way we live,

if our commitment keeps us from stealing from the company,

if our faith keeps us from cheating on taxes,

if we conduct our business with integrity.

## **CONCERNING CHURCH LEADERSHIP 3:1-13**

### **Concerning overseers (bishops, elders) 3:1-7**

**Their privilege 3:1** *Here is a trustworthy saying: If any-one sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task.*

Paul recognizes privileged position of overseers

=> It's valid to desire it. It's worth pursuing!

BUT—the entry requirements are high!

*2 Now the overseer must be above reproach*

Elder, bishop (overseer), pastor are interchangeable titles.

**Knute Larson** summarizes the role: To lead, equip, rule, teach, shepherd, and set an example for others.

It represents a position of privilege among God's people.  
But it's NOT a *political* position.

It's NOT established by popular vote.

**Tozer:** "Leadership in the church is a spiritual thing and should be so understood by everyone. It takes more than a ballot to make a leader.... If the church is to prosper spiritually she must have *spiritual* leadership, *not leadership by majority vote*."

The requirements for leadership are high!

**Kent Hughes:** After citing experience with self-centered, self-willed leaders, too common in churches, affirms: "Christian leadership is a matter of character. Authentic spirituality and character is everything in church leadership.... What we are as leaders in microcosm, the congregation will become in macrocosm."

That's why requirements for leaders are so high!

Paul seeks leaders who grace the church; adorn gospel.

**Their qualifications 3:2-7**

I'm going to follow outline from **Titus**: 3 categories.

Paul left Titus to serve in Crete. Situation is disturbing.

**Lots of religion** but

***their profession has little effect on daily living.***

***Popular attitude toward religion affects church***

God wants us be different from world—even religious world!

***Sound doctrine should be accompanied by sound lifestyle.***

*How do you get people to live that way?*

**Leave Titus to straighten out what's still crooked.**

**Appoint leaders—leaders who are blameless--**

**Leaders they can model their lives after.**

**Leaders who demonstrate what God's children look like!**  
**TWO REASONS** this is important:

1. **They're models for the church to imitate.**  
 If *leaders* aren't faithful, the rest of us will never know what God wants **US** to look like.
2. **Elders have to make hard decisions.**  
 They lead God's people; sometimes discipline others.  
 They often have to go *against the flow!*  
 These responsibilities require **credibility**.

If we don't *trust* leaders, we won't *follow* them  
 Blamelessness is important *for everyone*; our kids are watching, the world is watching –to check out validity of our faith.

Titus tells us **what God wants us ALL to be!**

**Both Titus and 1 Timothy focus on one central point:**

**LEADERS SHOULD BE BLAMELESS**

**NOT perfect, but no basis for accusation**

Titus—"Blameless" *lit.*, "*without a stain*"

No basis for one who opposes truth to reject message.

1 Tim.—"*Above reproach*"—"nothing to grab hold of"

No one's able to make an accusation against them.

People trying to find basis to accuse him

don't find anything to attack—like **Daniel**.

No habit that, if people find out, will harm God's reputation.

**McGee:** After coming to C.O.D., asked, "How do you like being pastor in that great church?" "It's a marvelous opportunity, but I find myself in a hard place; I'm accused of many things, and I can't defend myself. You can't spend all your time answering everybody; I've determined to preach the Word and not try to

answer them.” He said, “Just rejoice that things you’re accused of aren’t true.”

It’s important for church leaders to be blameless:

\* *Blameless with respect to home and family life* 1:6

\* *Blameless with respect to personal character* 1:7-8

\* *Blameless with respect to use of God's Word* 1:9

## **GOD’S PEOPLE SHOULD BE ABOVE REPROACH**

**IN HOME AND FAMILY LIFE 1:6** *An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and aren’t open to charge of being wild and disobedient.*

### **WHAT SHOULD OUR HOME LOOK LIKE?**

#### **CONCERNING OUR HOME IN GENERAL**

**Manage our family well** 1 Tim. 3:4-5 *He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. 5 (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?)*

**Know how to provide leadership in our home.**

Managing your home well = lead family in Lord’s ways.

The man who is unable to lead his own family  
will never be able to lead the church.

#### **CONCERNING RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR SPOUSE**

##### ***Above reproach in our marital relationship***

Only *specific* prerequisite listed: 1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6a

*"Husband of one wife"—lit., "a one-woman man"*

What does this mean? Numerous suggestions:

\* must be married.

\* only marry once, even if 1<sup>st</sup> wife dies. (1st-2nd C. church)

- \* can't divorce for any reason.
- \* can't divorce unless cause is adultery.
- \* can't divorce unless cause is adultery or desertion.
- \* can't divorce unless marriage was before you're saved.
- \* can only have one wife at a time; can't be a polygamist.
- \* Marital history isn't issue; must be faithful to wife you have.

Impossible to rule out other views in defense of *your* view.

**PVBC: Excludes from elder anyone who's been divorced.**

- \* "One-woman man" based on Gen 2: man leaves father/ mother, inseparably "glued" to wife, become "one flesh"... *FOREVER!*
- \* Christ reconfirms this concept of marriage in Matthew 19:3-11.
- \* Divorce leaves scars that affect attitudes and testimony of those involved. These effects are *never* completely eliminated.
- \* **Other teachers don't agree** with *my* interpretation —*you don't have to!* My convictions aren't only alternative!

**IRREDUCIBLE MINIMUM:**

**ABSOLUTE MORAL PURITY AND FAITHFULNESS**

**No reason to question our commitment to our spouse!**

Popular philosophy held low view of marriage, and of women.

Common for man to have more than 1 woman, besides wife.

Men visited temple prostitutes in pagan, idolatrous towns.

—often set up a second household somewhere

—sought sexual rendezvous with other women.

***God's people are to be different!***

God's children known for integrity—for faithfulness to spouse.

**Absolute integrity required—actions *and* thoughts.**

Contemporary marriage: lack of faithfulness;

seeking personal satisfaction

**God's pattern: for Christian husband**

**- seek wife's satisfaction - commit self entirely to her**

Christian leaders ought to lead the way

Scandals of Bakers and Swaggarts, and other leaders—

Is it any wonder people doubt claims for gospel?

**Is our relationship with our spouse an example for others?**

What's lacking for US to become such a husband or wife?

Are we “guarding our eyes”? —temptation to look around

Men who travel face temptation to turn on cable in hotel.

*Are our thoughts pure, loyal to one woman?*

What about use of Internet or VCR in home or office?

**Ask God to help us become all we should be, for His glory.**

[3<sup>rd</sup> area of family life where all should seek to be above reproach:

**CONCERNING RELATIONSHIP WITH CHILDREN 1:6b**

**Leaders should *model what God asks of parents.***

**Not perfect, but blameless!**

This is the goal for **EVERY** home—not just leaders!

Children should not live so their conduct negates our doctrine

**Our children are believers.**

*“Children who believe”* **TWO POSSIBLE MEANINGS:**

Sometimes describes **person who believes**—faith, trust

More common: **person worthy of trust, faithful**

1:9 describes God's Word. It's *faithful*; *worthy of our trust*.

**To decide which meaning, you must examine context.**

Warning: avoid obstacles that might negate our teaching

If our children rebel, how will we get others to pay attention?

**Our children must be worthy of confidence.**

**Lifestyle of our kids upholds doctrine we teach.**

Often children profess to be believers; but don't act like it.

Lifestyle does more harm than unbelieving son,  
respected in neighborhood for upright lifestyle.

**Must be trustworthy**—lives don't discredit our ministry.

**Our children aren't wild and disobedient. Tit. 1:6b**

*"Not open to charge of being wild and disobedient"*

Children no longer living at home?

Affected by forces outside parents' control.

Situation may not reflect what they receive at home.

**NOT an issue of blame. It's an issue of credibility**

We're not saying it's parents' **fault** when child goes astray.

When people come to us,

they need confidence that our faith works.

If our kids are out of control, that affects our **credibility**.

Children bear responsibility for their own choices.

We're not responsible for choices our children make.

I **am** responsible for teaching them to love and trust the Lord,  
but I'm **not** responsible for their choices.

I have enough to worry about making *my own* choices.

But wild lifestyle of child out of control *does* affect **credibility**

**Our children obey with appropriate respect 1 Tim 3:4**

**Children who are subject to authority of parents**

If a leader can't lead his family, how will he lead a church?

A man must be respected as leader at home

before he can serve as leader among God's people.

**Who are these "children" Paul talks about?**

**Three words in N.T. describe children:**

1. **Legal** word: child as heir, legal descendant of parents.

Describe Jesus as “Son of God.”

We’re God’s “*children*” adopted into His family, as heirs.

Our kids are still our “sons”—legally our children.

2. Focus on **child’s age**. Root: *pedagogy* or *pediatrician*.

I no longer take my kids to a *pediatrician*.

They’re no longer “*children*.” They’re grown up.

3. Focus on **descent**. Root: “*to give birth*.”

**No reference to age.**

Deals with *ancestry*.

Focuses on our children as our *descendants*.

My children are grown, but they’re still descendants

—still my children. They’re still “*chip off the old block*.”

Their actions continue to reflect on me.

I’ve been told our grandson even looks like me!

His father’s still my child—***reminds people of me!***

**Adult child going astray harms parent's reputation.**

Best parent not serve in leadership *while problem continues*.

**We need more godly family models.**

*We aren’t perfect. There’s no such thing as perfect kids!*

We are commissioned to model what godly home looks like, *warts and all*, so people imitate model, and follow God’s plan.

One reason people flounder: *we’re lacking models!*

***Where are godly models of a family to imitate?***

That’s why Paul instructs Titus to “*straighten out what’s lacking*”, finding blameless, godly people, to model it for the rest.

*How do we do that?*

1. **Manage our home well.**

2. **Love our wife: Absolute moral purity**



### 3. Teach our children how to live.

Elders model for church, parents model for children,  
Christians model for world.

Call for godly families is call to leaders AND non-leaders.

Call for godly singles to model godly living as single adult, is  
just as critical, as the call for godly married people

*God seeks models of godly living to imitate.*

Answer to **create moral purity**: **godly leaders**, committed to  
model God's standard of *moral purity*.

Answer to **impacting families** in community: **godly families**,  
committed to model what godly family looks like.

To **impact singles**: **godly single leaders**, committed to model  
what godly living looks like.

When a person's goal in life is to please God above all else ...  
... when his eyes are fixed on wife—or husband—and her alone ...  
... when youth are committed to waiting for God's choice ...  
... when kids respect parents; have good reputation ...

*God's people have something to model before watching world!*

***Then we'll make an impact on OUR community!***