

W O M E N ' S B I B L E S T U D Y

Equipped

F O R T H E F I G H T

Qualifications of Leadership

**1 Timothy 3:1-16**

Lesson 4

There have been more books written on the topic of leadership than we can count. But, no worldly formula or pattern for successful leadership can compare to the counsel found in the Word of God. If the church is to be effective, it must have leaders who are godly and devoted to Christ and His ways. The apostle Paul paints a clear picture that indicates that leaders are not to live any way they please! That is why he diligently lists the characteristics necessary for those in leadership in 1 Timothy 3.

This week, we will study that long and extensive list of leadership qualifications. It would be easy for us to overlook this list, especially if we don't consider ourselves to be leaders. But, we should be careful about approaching it that way as there is much to be gleaned from it. To name just a few attributes, leaders are to be blameless, self-controlled, wise, reputable, hospitable, able to teach, gentle, not quarrelsome, well-respected and honorable.

While you may not be a pastor or deacon, the world is watching you and making note of the lifestyle you lead and the choices you make. Just what is your behavior declaring? Could someone follow you if you were chosen to be a leader? And if they did follow you, would what they see you do be consistent with what Jesus does? These are heart searching questions that every Christian woman must answer. If after looking over this list you feel you fall short somewhere, stop and pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you grow in this particular area, making you a leader to all those who are watching. Let His power within you enable you to be an effective witness to the world around you!

**Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer**

**This Week's Scripture: 1 Timothy 3:1-16**

*"This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. <sup>2</sup>A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; <sup>3</sup>not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; <sup>4</sup>one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence <sup>5</sup>(for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); <sup>6</sup>not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. <sup>7</sup>Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. <sup>8</sup>Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, <sup>9</sup>holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. <sup>10</sup>But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. <sup>11</sup>Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. <sup>12</sup>Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. <sup>13</sup>For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup>These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; <sup>15</sup>but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. <sup>16</sup>And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory." NKJV*

**This Week's Memory Verse:**

***"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory."***

**1 Timothy 3:16**

1. In verse one of this week's scripture, the Apostle Paul states that "if a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work." This principle goes back to the Old Testament book of Exodus. Read the account found in Exodus 18:17-23 and note why it is necessary to have bishops or leaders in the first place. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. We are now going to focus on verse 6 of this week's scripture. What statement does this verse make? \_\_\_\_\_

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a. Look up Isaiah 14:12-15 and note what was written about Lucifer. \_\_\_\_\_

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b. Ezekiel 28:17 gives us further insight to what was in the heart of Lucifer. According to this verse, why did Lucifer fall? \_\_\_\_\_

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### Group Discussion

Why do you think Paul gave bishops this warning about pride? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. The Book of Proverbs has much to say about the effects of pride. Look up the following verses and note what they say about pride.

a. Proverbs 11:2: \_\_\_\_\_

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b. Proverbs 16:5: \_\_\_\_\_

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c. Proverbs 16:18: \_\_\_\_\_

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d. Proverbs 29:23: \_\_\_\_\_

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*"Though the Bible urges us on to perfection, it gives no encouragement to suppose that perfection is achieved. A man who thinks he is righteous is not righteous . . . for the reason, primarily, that he is full of spiritual pride, the most deadly form that sin can take."*

*– D. Elton Trueblood (1900–1994)*



