

“QUALIFIED ELDERS and DEACONS WHO OVERSEE”

“Body by God” – Part 4

1 Timothy 3:1-16

June 7-8, 2008

Open It

1. What are some skills/qualifications that make a good leader?
2. In what ways do you think the skills required to lead in the church are different from the skills required to lead in the secular world?

Explore It

1. Read 1 Tim. 3:1-7.
 - a. List the qualifications required to be an elder?
 - b. Should the office of elder be a job one desperately wants? Is everyone eligible?
 - c. Titus 1:5-9 gives another list of qualifications for elders. Compare the list in 1 Tim 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Make a list of the qualifications that are found in both passages and a list of qualifications that are unique to each passage.
2. Read Acts 6:1-7. This passage describes the initial choosing of deacons in the early church.
 - a. What was their job to be?
 - b. What was to be the focus of the apostles once the deacons were in place?
3. Read 1 Tim. 3:8-13.
 - a. What are the requirements that Paul lists for deacons?
 - b. What were some characteristics their wives were to possess?

4. Read 1 Tim 3:14-16

- a. Why did Paul write these instructions to Timothy?
- b. One of the qualifications for elders outlined in 1Tim. 3:7 is that he should have a good reputation outside the church. Based on 1 Thess. 4:11-12 and 1 Pet. 2:12-17, what are some additional reasons to watch our behavior with people outside the church?
- c. Verse 16 contains an entire description of Jesus and his ministry. What does it tell us about who He was and his ministry?

Get It

1. Were any of the qualifications for elders and deacons surprising to you? Were there other items you might have expected to see, but did not?
2. One of the qualifications for elders and deacons is that they manage their households well (vs. 4 and 12).
 - a. Read Ezekiel 18. Is a son responsible for the sins of his father or a father for the sins of his grown son?
 - b. Read 1 Samuel 2:12-34. This passage tells the story of the judge, Eli, and his sons.
 - What was God’s complaint about how Eli related to his sons?
 - What was the impact and consequence of Eli’s sons being out of control?
 - c. Given the impact that our families’ actions can have on God’s reputation and our leadership, why do you think it is so important for leaders in the church to manage their households well?
 - d. What insights into parenting do you gain from these two passages?
3. When we read a list of the qualifications for elders and deacons, it is easy to become overwhelmed and potentially discouraged by all of these requirements.

- a. Do a quick inventory of your own spiritual life. Recognizing that the road to spiritual maturity is a journey not a destination, how are you doing?
- b. If you are comfortable sharing, highlight some areas where you feel you are doing well?
- c. What are some areas in which you need to mature?

Apply It

- 1. Based on our study this week, is there anything currently that you know is hindering your spiritual growth or any steps you could take in the coming weeks and months that would accelerate your growth?

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“Body by God” series – Part 4
 Saturday, June 7, 2008
 Sunday, June 8, 2008

Text: 1 Timothy 3:1-13

Bullet: This list is about _____, not perfection. It is about the _____, not the past.

What is NOT on this list:

Spiritual _____

A Seminary _____

A poor translation:

A common blind spot:

Three Surprises:

A family _____.

Two reasons to make family a top priority:

1. It is _____ priority.

2. God’s _____, to some degree, is at stake.

Not a _____.

A _____ with the world.