

# 1 Timothy: Timely Instructions For LEFC

2024-02-11

## 1 Timothy 3:1

*The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.*

**LEFC pastoral qualifications** filled with **1 Timothy** references: instruction book on **leading, administrating, & pastoring a local church. Timely for LEFC.**

- Paul **met** Timothy in **Lystra**, city in Galatia, during **first missionary journey**.
  - **Knew Timothy** perhaps **20 years** as **companion, helper, son in faith** when put Timothy in **charge of Ephesian church**. *Timothy 1:2*

**First** of Paul's **final three letters** called **Pastoral Epistles**. **1 & 2 Timothy, Titus**. **1 Timothy** written around **62-66 AD**.

- Practical and **pastoral advice** from **aging apostle** in **60's to young pastor** in **20 or 30's**
  - **Written from pastor's viewpoint to pastors, not to churches**, but Paul **expected** these **letters** to be **circulated among churches**.

Epistle **assumes** rather than develops **doctrine**.

- **Practical outworking** of **Gospel truth** on **individual and corporate level**.
  - **Topics** incredibly **current and timely** for **LEFC**. *See outline at end*

**Jesus' head of his body**, the **church**. Ephesians 5:23, 1 Timothy 4:15-16, Colossians 1:18

- **Church not mere human organization**, it's an **organism, a body**.

**God intends** be **men set apart** for **spiritual care** and **oversight of his body** and family.

- **All Christians equal** before God as **children** and heirs **yet some called** by God to **serve Him** and **his people** as **elders** of His body. *1 Timothy 1:12, 2:7, Heb 13:17*
  - **Congregation** recognizes, **affirms**, and submits to **elders God calls**. 1 Timothy 4:14

Leaders fall into **2 major categories**: **elders/pastors & deacons** ("servant").

- **Two different yet complementary offices w/same moral qualifications** but **different practical** responsibilities. *Acts 6:2-4, 1 Timothy 3:2, 8*

**God's will** for **local church** is **group of elders** is **primary spiritual elders**.

- **In scripture**: **elder/overseer/pastors used interchangeably**. *Titus 1:5-9 Acts 20:28, Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 5:1-2*.
  - **Function of elders** is to **feed and lead**, teach and govern...give **guide/direction**.

**Critical** that **spiritual maturity** and **character** be of **highest quality**. *1 Timothy 3:1-7, 5:17*

- **List of qualifications** – **personal, public, home life**.
- **Elders are governing overseers** with diversity of functions.
  - **All** must be able to **handle Word & recognize false doctrine and correct error** but **some "labor especially in preach and teach"**.
- These are **foundational qualifications** for next **LEFC pastor...process**.

Elder/pastor **call and giftedness must** be accompanied by godliness.

- **Outward behavior reveals inner character.... foundation for an elder.**
  - **What we are speaks more loudly than what we say.**

Paul **charged Timothy to live beyond reproach, set example.** 1 Timothy 4:12-16, 1 Corinthians 11:1

- 1 Timothy **calls for all Christians pursue** same things **elders called to be to do.**
  - **Every Christian must "Fight good fight of faith" by the Holy Spirit's power.** 1 Timothy 6:11-12

**Jesus Christ, the head of his body,** His church @ LEFC.... He **purchased US** with His blood.

- He **empowers pursuit** of elder/deacon **qualities...fruit of the Holy Spirit.**
  - I have **full confidence** that **sovereign Lord** will **provide** for His church at LEFC with **His choice** of our **next Senior Pastor.**
    - **My trust is sure** because of **who He is.** 1 Timothy 6:15-16

## 1 Timothy Outline

1:1-2	Introduction
1:3-20	CHARGE CONCERNING SOUND DOCTRINE
2:1-3:13	GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE CHURCH
2:1-8	The Practice Of Prayer
2:9-15	Instructions For Women
3:1-13	Qualifications For Church Officers
3:14-4:16	ADVICE TO TIMOTHY
3:14-16	Paul's Purpose In Writing
4:1-10	True and False teachers contrasted
4:11-16	Do not neglect the Gift of God
5:1-6:19	INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
5:1-2	Treatment of All People
5:3-16	Concerning Widows
5:17-25	Concerning Elders
6:1-2	Concerning Servants
6:3-10	Concerning Teachers Motivated By Greed
6:11-16	Concerning The Man Of God Himself
6:17-19	Concerning The Rich
6:20-21	CONCLUDING CHARGE TO TIMOTHY