

**The Church**  
***Leadership, Part 3***  
**1 Timothy 3:1-16**

- Read 1 Timothy 3 and share your overall impressions of this chapter.
- The qualities necessary for elders and deacons should be pursued (in the Spirit!) by all believers.
  - Does it seem impossible to live this way?
  - Discuss how this is a package deal, not a buffet where we pick and choose what we want.
  - If you are willing, share which of these qualities are the biggest challenge for you.
- The Bible speaks about money more than you can imagine.
  - Is it wrong/sinful to be rich?
  - How is it, do you think, that both poverty and wealth can cause us to struggle with pride? Humility is not easy in either state, but it can strengthen us to fight temptation to all sorts of evil, like . . .
  - How can we free ourselves from the love of money?
- 1 Timothy 3:16 is an early church creed.
  - Do you think we should continue to affirm our faith through reciting creeds?
  - What are the advantages of doing so?
  - Are there any concerns about reciting creeds?

Recite the Apostles' Creed together:

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only-begotten Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary;  
suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried;

he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Study Notes

### Thoughts and Quotes from the Sermon

#### Potential interpretations of what it means to be “the husband of one wife:”

- **A single man (even a widower?) cannot be an elder** (it is highly unlikely this is what Paul had in mind – he was single, as was Jesus)
- **A polygamous man cannot be an elder – this is the easiest one to dismiss** (polygamy was not practiced in Greco-Roman society, nor in Christian circles – some practices within Judaism, but it was on the wane at the time)
- **A divorced man cannot be an elder, or a deacon, as we shall see** (one interpretation of Matthew 19:9 – our interpretation – is that divorce and remarriage are acceptable in the case of adultery and do not disqualify a man from church leadership, although time is needed; 1 Corinthians 7 indicates there might be other reasons for remarriage if an unbelieving spouse leaves; 1 Corinthians 7:15 opens the possibility that abuse or other forms of extreme neglect and breaking of the marriage covenant are legitimate grounds for divorce and remarriage, although the elders should help a believer in this circumstance to make this decision)
- **This is a “one-woman man;” all his affections are toward his wife** (this is the most likely interpretation)

**Mystery** – In the NT, a mystery is a truth (about salvation) that was previously withheld that has now been revealed in Christ.

### Our Elders

Lee Williford – chairman  
Ben Grumbach  
Ted McKinney – inactive  
Jim McLaughlin  
Neal Manning  
Mike Money Penny – inactive  
Jeremy Pittman  
Brad Talley – teaching elder  
Bert Wallace

### **Our Deacons**

Jay Millard – co-chairman  
Jason Painter – co-chairman  
Bryan Ardner  
Jon Bart  
Adam Bryant  
Jim Clayton - inactive  
Steven Eisenberg – inactive  
Drew Hanson  
Paul Jicinsky  
Chris Kerns  
Aaron Marino  
Ken Morgan  
Ralph Nichols  
Scott Shamblee  
Josh Tate  
Charlie Williams  
Jason Woodall

### **Scripture Associated with the Message**

**Notice how these two verses used the terms overseer and elder interchangeably:**

**1 Timothy 3:1 1** The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of **overseer** he desires a noble task. **2** Therefore an **overseer** must be **above reproach . . .**

**Titus 1:5** This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint **elders** in every town as I directed you— 6 if anyone is **above reproach . . .**

**1 Timothy 6:10** For **the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils**. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

**1 Timothy 6:6** But godliness with contentment is great gain, 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. . . **17** As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

**1 Timothy 5:22** Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands (ordaining someone to ministry), nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure. <sup>23</sup> No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, **with the overseers and deacons:**

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.