

# **THE PASTORAL EPISTLES**

**God's Vision for the Church as His Faithful Family**

**Week 5: Sound Leadership**

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, in your divine providence you have appointed various orders in Your Church: Give your grace, we humbly pray, to all who are called to any office and ministry for your people; and so fill them with the truth of your doctrine and clothe them with holiness of life that they may faithfully serve before you, to the glory of your great Name and for the benefit of your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*COLLECT FOR*  
**EMBER DAYS I**

## SOUND LEADERSHIP

# Outline of Today's Class

- Qualifications for Ordained Ministry.
- The Function and Roles of Ordained Ministers.
- The Question of Gender and Ordination.

## SOUND LEADERSHIP

# 1 Timothy 3.1–13 (ESV)

Cf Titus 1.5–9

*The saying is trustworthy: if anyone aspires to the office of overseer [bishop], he desires a noble task. Therefore, an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.*

## SOUND LEADERSHIP

# 1 Timothy 3.1–13 (ESV)

Cf Titus 1.5–9

*Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first, then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless.*

*[Women] likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things.*

*Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.*

# **QUALIFICATIONS FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY**

- **Character, Not Ability**
- **The Qualifications**

QUALIFICATIONS  
FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY

> **Character, not Ability**

The Qualifications

# Character, Not Ability

## *Ordinary and Mundane Qualifications*

- More concerned about character than charisma, gifting, or skill.
  - “There is a body count of young pastors whose ability rose them to prominence before their character was ready for it.” – Ed Stetzer
- Character qualifications are ordinary & mundane
  - God does not call “super-Christians” who are holier than everyone else.
  - God calls, gifts, and equips ordinary Christians to ministry. Ordained or otherwise.

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY

Character, not Ability

> **The Qualifications**

# The Qualifications

*Bishops, Priests, and Deacons must...*

- Aspire to and desire the office
  - The false teachers desired for greedy gain (1 Timothy 6.10).
  - The false teachers had marred the reputation of the gospel, the church, and *the offices of ordained ministry*.
  - This likely made many qualified, called Christians in Ephesus skeptical of pursuing ordained ministry.



## QUALIFICATIONS FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY

Character, not Ability

> **The Qualifications**

# The Qualifications

*Bishops, Priests, and Deacons must...*

- Be above reproach/blameless
  - The false teachers desired for greedy gain (1 Timothy 6.10).
  - This does *not* mean ministers must be sinless, cf. Romans 3.23, 1 John 1.8.
  - “It appertaineth to the discipline of the Church that inquiry be made of evil ministers, and that they be accused by those who have knowledge of their offenses; and, finally, being found guilty, by just judgment be deposed.” – Article 26
  - “Never accept any accusation against an elder [presbyter/priest/bishop] except on evidence of two or three witnesses. As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.” – 1 Tim 5.19–20

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY

Character, not Ability

> **The Qualifications**

# The Qualifications

*Bishops, Priests, and Deacons must...*

- Be faithful to their Spouse
  - Various interpretations:
    - ✗ ...*married only once*... (NRSV; divorce, some: widowers)
    - ✗ ...*the husband of one wife*... (ESV, CSB, NET; polygamy)
    - ✓ ...*faithful to his wife*... (NIV, NLT, Köstenberger)
    - ✗ *Only* married individuals qualify for ordained ministry
  - Represents all of Holy Scripture's teaching regarding sexual ethics.
  - Disqualifying: Adultery; Unscripturally divorcing, abandoning, or abusing spouse; same-sex relationships; premarital sexual activity; etc.
  - Fidelity of the minister to spouse, or potential future spouse is a picture of
    - God's fidelity to his family.
    - And the minister's fidelity to Christ, Sound Doctrine, and the Family of God.

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY

Character, not Ability

> **The Qualifications**

# The Qualifications

*Bishops, Priests, and Deacons must...*

- Manage their households well
  - Bishops and Priests/Presbyters have additional qualification:
    - He must...see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect (1 Timothy 3.4, NIV)
    - If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church? (1 Timothy 3.5)
  - Focus is still character, rather than ability.
  - Emphasis is on manner rather than children's obedience.
  - How a minister leads, directs, and shepherds their children is a direct reflection of how they will lead, direct, and shepherd God's children

QUALIFICATIONS  
FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY

Character, not Ability

> **The Qualifications**

# The Qualifications

*Bishops, Priests, and Deacons must...*

- Have a good reputation with outsiders
  - Contrary to the behaviors and character of the false teachers.
  - Does this contradict other Scripture? Notably, John 15.18 and Galatians 5.11?
  - Differentiate between the offensiveness of the gospel, and our ability to be offensive.
  - Recommended book: Stephen McAlpine's *How to be the Bad Guys: How to Live for Jesus in a World that Say You Shouldn't*

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY

Character, not Ability

> **The Qualifications**

# The Qualifications

*Bishops, Priests, and Deacons must...*

- Not be Contentious
  - Category summarizing several qualifications:
    - “[bishops and priests/presbyters] must be temperate, respectable, hospitable...not violent, but gentle, not quarrelsome...  
...not arrogant or quick-tempered... but hospitable...self-controlled”  
– 1 Tim 3.2b–3, Titus 1.7–8
    - “[deacons] must not be double-tongued...not slanderers, but temperate”  
– 1 Timothy 3.8b, 11b
  - Contentiousness, argumentativeness, and divisiveness were marks of the false teachers (see week 2).

# **THE ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF ORDAINED MINISTERS**

ROLES & FUNCTIONS  
OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

## Roles & Functions

- Bishops [“overseer”] provide oversight
  - Bishops are chosen out of a college of presbyters to be the chief shepherds (under Christ) and missionaries as successors to the Apostles.
  - The college of bishops represent the visible unity of the church.
  - Oversee the governance, leadership, doctrine, sacraments, and discipline of the church.
  - Authority to ordain and confirm.

## ROLES & FUNCTIONS OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

# Roles & Functions

- Priests/Presbyters assist Bishops by shepherding a local parish.
  - Stewards of sound doctrine through preaching and teaching, administers the sacraments, & provides of pastoral care.
  - “Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own son.” – Acts 20.28, Paul to the Ephesian Presbyters
  - “Must be able to teach” – 1 Tim 3.2
  - “Let the presbyters who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching” – 1 Tim 5.17



ROLES & FUNCTIONS  
OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

## Roles & Functions

- Deacons assist both Bishops and Priest/Presbyters in ministering to parish and city.
  - Minister to the practical and physical needs of the church.
  - Lead various ministries as gifted & needed.
  - Take Holy Communion to those who were kept from being present at the service.
  - Historically, catechized the children and adult converts in the church.
  - Preach, teach, and provide pastoral care as needed and called on by the bishop and priest/presbyter.

# **ORDINATION & GENDER**

ORDINATION &  
GENDER

## Ordination & Gender

- The stance taken by our Diocese (and Scripture!):
  - Bishop and Priesthood is restricted to men.
  - Diaconate is open to men and women.
- 1 Timothy 2.11–15 introduces topic of authoritative teaching, which becomes the backdrop of 3.1–13.
- “I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather he is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve.” – 1 Timothy 2.12–13

ORDINATION &  
GENDER

## Ordination & Gender

- “I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather he is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve.” – 1 Timothy 2.12–13
- Not an absolute silence, cf. 1 Corinthians 11.5 gives instructions for women in both prayer and prophesying.
- The “quietness” is with respect to authoritative teaching in the church.
- 1 Timothy 3.1-7 continues the idea of authoritative leadership.

ORDINATION &  
GENDER

# Ordination & Gender

- Which offices constitute authoritative leadership and teaching?
  - Bishops
  - Priests/Presbyters.
- Therefore, these offices are restricted whereas the office of deacon is not.
- Why are the offices of bishop and priest restricted to men?
  - Do we hold that women are naturally inferior to men? God forbid! All made in image of God.
  - Were the restrictions cultural, or somehow limited to Ephesus? No, cf. 1 Timothy 2.13

ORDINATION &  
GENDER

# Ordination & Gender

- Why are the offices of bishop and priest restricted to men?
  - The idea of “headship” was part of God’s design for the complementary nature of the two genders from the beginning.
  - This is a picture of the incarnate, risen, and ascended Christ’s headship over the church.

ORDINATION &  
GENDER

# Ordination & Gender

- How do we understand headship?
  - Covenantal Responsibility and Accountability.
  - That Eve was deceived first is a descriptive fact, not prescriptive for all women.
  - The Fall reveals Adam's failure in promoting Eve's good flourishing.
  - God calls out Adam rather than Eve, revealing Adam's accountability and responsibility.

ORDINATION &  
GENDER

# Ordination & Gender

- All authority granted in headship is given in order to promote the flourishing of others, not dominion of the one to whom it's granted.
- The authority granted to bishops and priests is related to their ministry of feeding and tending God's sheep.
- Jesus, as head of the Church, has
  - Born the *accountability* of our sins on the cross
  - *Authoritatively* washed us clean by water and spirit
  - Takes *responsibility* for the family of God by saving us and interceding for us.



## TODAY'S SOURCES

- Andreas Köstenberger, *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*.
- Anglican Mission in America, "A Report of the Study Concerning the Ordination of Women."
- Mike Cospers, host, writer, producer, and Ed Stetzer, contributor, "Who Killed Mars Hill?" *The Rise and Fall of Mars Hill*, Christianity Today, June 21, 2021. Podcast Audio.  
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/podcasts/rise-and-fall-of-mars-hill/who-killed-mars-hill-church-mark-driscoll-rise-fall.html>.
- Stephen McAlpine, *Being the Bad Guys: How to Live for Jesus in a World that Says You Shouldn't*.
- Tim Keller, *Ministries of Mercy: The Call of the Jericho Road*.
- Thomas R. Schreiner, "Head Coverings, Prophecies, and the Trinity: I Corinthians 11.2-16,"  
[http://web.archive.org/web/20200928094645/http://d3pi8hptl0qhh4.cloudfront.net/documents/tSchreiner/RBMW\\_5.pdf](http://web.archive.org/web/20200928094645/http://d3pi8hptl0qhh4.cloudfront.net/documents/tSchreiner/RBMW_5.pdf).
- William D. Mounce, *Pastoral Epistles*. Vol. 46 in Word Biblical Commentary.