



PASTOR: A MAN
TRANSFORMED BY
GOD'S GRACE

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-7

I. THE CHARACTER OF THE CALL—DESIRE TO DO THE WORK V. 1.

¹The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.

- A. The emphasis is on the work not the title.
- B. In the NT there are three words for what we call a pastor: elder, shepherd, overseer (Acts 20:28; Phil 1:1; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- C. God graciously raises up pastors to provide wise leadership & care for the church.
- D. There will be evidence of that calling from God.

II. THE CHURCH WILL SEE HIS PROVEN CHARACTER VV. 2-3.

² Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.

- A. There is only one skillset listed—able to teach (v. 2). The rest is character.
- B. If a man is called to be a pastor, the church will be able to see evidence that the Holy Spirit is transforming his character.

III. HIS LEADERSHIP ABILITY WILL BE PROVEN BY HIS HOME AND FAMILY LIFE VV. 4-5.

⁴ He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵ for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?

- A. As children age, they should learn to obey their father because he has earned their respect (Eph. 6:1-4).
- B. Home & family are the proving grounds for pastoral leadership.
- C. His family will see evidence of the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in his life.

IV. OUTSIDERS WILL ALSO SEE HIS PROVEN CHARACTER VV. 6-7.

⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil.

⁷ Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

A. When a church thrusts a new convert into such key roles they put them at great spiritual risk.

B. The transforming work of the Holy Spirit will be seen by outsiders v. 7.