

1 Tim 3 M.E.A.T Notes/Questions:

MEAT of the gospel: Motivation, Examination, Application, and Takeaway

1. What does the word “bishop” or “overseer” mean?
2. If a bishop must be blameless is the over-arching requirement, what 15 elements are given to define blameless in the following passages? And, what does each mean? *(You will need the back of the page for this and following questions...)*
3. What does “likewise” mean and how does it apply in these passages?
4. There are 10 qualifications listed for Deacon. What are they? Discuss the ones that are not the same as a bishop.
5. How should a deacon’s or bishop’s wife compare to them?
6. How is the church the “pillar and ground of the truth”?
7. What are the 6 elements of the Mystery of Godliness? What does each mean?

Motivation:

Examination:

Application:

Takeaways:

- Bishop – overseer, one charged with the duty of seeing that things to be done by others are done rightly
 - The summarizing qualification of a bishop is that they be “blameless” – meaning not that they are sinless, but that they have sufficient, consistent character to where no one could bring accusation against them
 - Husband of one Wife – husband to the first and only wife
 - Vigilant – keeping watch, circumspect
 - Sober – of sound mind
 - Of Good behavior – well arranged, seemly, modest
 - Hospitable – generous and inviting to guests
 - Apt to Teach – skillful in teaching
 - Not Given to Wine – not consuming wine in an undiluted concentration, but only using wine to purify water, as per it’s original design and intended use
 - Not a Striker – not contentious, quarrelsome, or ready to deal a blow
 - Not Greedy for Lucre – not eager for base gain, not greedy for money
 - Patient – fair, mild, gentle
 - Not a Brawler – does not seek out fighting (physical or otherwise)
 - Not Covetous -
 - Rules his own House well – guardian of his home, creating an environment of honor, excellence, and righteousness; which results in his children holding in obedience (out of reverence and respect for the father) to these same values and actions
 - Not a Novice – not newly planted; not a new convert
 - Good Report outside the church – has a good testimony with those who are not of the church, or of the Faith
 - List of passages with reference to qualification: 1 Tim 3:1-7, Titus 1, Titus 2:1, 1 Peter 5:1-4, 2 Tim 4:2, James 5:14
- The word “likewise” means that what follows in similar fashion to what preceded.
- Deacons – one who executes the commands of another, especially a master; servant; attendant (literal translation is waiter)
 - Sincere (1 Timothy 3:8) - possessing Christian purpose, having great reverence for spiritual matters; one whose word is respected;
 - Truthfulness in speech (1 Timothy 3:8) - not "double-tongued," does not insinuate, manipulate, exaggerate, fabricate or gossip;
 - Not given to much wine (1 Timothy 3:8; 1 Corinthians 8:9) - temperate in living, abstaining from sale or use of intoxicating drink as beverage;
 - Not greedy or pursuing dishonest gain (1 Timothy 3:9) - a right attitude toward material possessions, not exploiting others for gain or profit;
 - A holder of the faith (1 Timothy 3:9) - giving strength to the church fellowship and possessing spiritual integrity beyond reproach;
 - Tested and proved (1 Timothy 3:10) - demonstrating spiritual qualifications before being elected to serve as a deacon. A candidate must have been observed for a minimum of one year prior to consideration by the board;
 - Blameless (1 Timothy 3:10) - one against whom no charge of wrongdoing can be brought with justification [*summing statement at the end, rather than beginning*].

- Husband of one wife (1 Timothy 3:12; 1 Corinthians 7:39) - one who is and has been committed to the sanctity of the marriage covenant and the picture it portrays of Christ and His bride. Neither the husband nor the wife may have a history of divorce. Re-marriage following the death of a spouse also meets this qualification.
- Ruling children and own house well (1 Timothy 3:11-12) - one that conscientiously cares for their family, faithfully devoted to his wife, providing leadership for his children and household with the discipline, compassion, and tenderness of Christ. The wife, likewise, should be worthy of respect, not a malicious talker, but temperate and trustworthy in everything.
- Bold in the faith (1 Timothy 3:13) - having served well in the church, demonstrating great assurance of their faith in Jesus Christ.
- “Likewise” their wives
- Paul writes so Timothy would know how they ought to conduct themselves in the House of God (church)
 - pillar and ground of the truth – misconduct and disorder in God’s church weakens the “support” structure of the church in the World and undermines the testimony of God’s Truth to the World
- The Mystery of Godliness:
 - Manifest in the Flesh – Christ incarnate
 - Justified in the Spirit – the Work of the Holy Spirit in Jesus’s ministry and resurrection
 - Seen by Angels – the angelic witness to Christ’s ministry (Jesus’s birth)
 - Preached among the Gentiles – proclamation of Christ to ALL the Nations, not just Jews
 - Believed on in the World – required response to the Gospel
 - Received up into Glory – Ascension and seating of Christ on the Throne Eternal

Pastor’s MEAT:

Motivation: It is fundamentally important that the church live and conduct itself in a way that correctly portrays who Jesus and the Trinity are. God has called “elders” to lead the church and ensure that this occurs.

Examination: As a Bishop, do I strive to maintain my qualification? Do I strive to help my wife in this area as well? Do I hold my Deacons and wives accountable to their qualifications? Is my witness outside the church good?

Application: I do strive to uphold my own qualification, but I do not work as hard to help my wife as I could or should. I do exercise accountability, but I also let more things slide than I should. My witness is good, but I do sometimes get aggravated with difficult people, instead of loving them.

Takeaways: I need to focus more on how Jenn and I help each other to remain “pillars” of the church and quit letting distractions get in the way. I need to be as deliberate with my scheduling for the things my wife needs as I do with meetings and other business.