**SERMON NOTES**

**A few clarifying statements regarding 1 Tim. 3:1-7:**

1. **This list is NOT calling men to perfection** 
   1. They are goals to be pursued and a general description of Godliness
2. **This list is NOT an exhaustive list** 
   1. Let’s not say MORE/LESS than what Paul is saying here
3. **This list is NOT just for elders** 
   1. We are ALL called to live a Godly life…not just the leaders
   2. **1 Thes. 4:3, 7** – *“For this is this will of God, your sanctification”…* *“For God has not called us to impurity, but in holiness.”*
   3. Elders MUST live Godly lives BECAUSE they are to be examples
   4. Being an example is one of their primary functions as an elder.
      1. **1 Pet. 5:1-4** – *“…be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care…not lording it over those entrusted to you,* ***but being examples to the flock****…”*
      2. **Phil.** 3:17 – “*Join together in* ***following my example****, brothers, and just as you have us as a model,* ***keep your eyes on those who live as we do****.*”
      3. **1 Tim.** 4:12 – *Let no one despise you for your youth, but* ***set the believers an example*** *in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”*
      4. The church will go beyond the spiritual maturity of its leaders!!!

**6 Different Categories for the Elder from 1 Tim. 3:1-7**

1. **The Work of the Elder (vs 1)** 
   1. If a man desires to do the work of an elder…this is a noble task!!
   2. He needs to understand that this is an office that he’s called to:
      1. He’s called an overseer (Gk. *episkopos*) = over-watcher/seer
      2. He’s called an elder (Gk. *presbuteros*) = elder
      3. He’s called a pastor (Gk. *poimen*) = shepherd
      4. All 3 refer to the same man…just different aspects of work
         * **Acts 20:17, 28** – all 3 titles are mentioned together
   3. He needs to understand that with great power comes great responsibility
      1. **James 3:1** – those who teach*… “will be judged with greater strictness.”*
2. **The Character of the Elder (vs 2-3)** 
   1. He must be a man above reproach **(blameless)**
   2. He must be the husband of one wife **(literally = one woman man)**
   3. He must keep his life under control…soberminded, self-controlled, respectable…**(his life is well balanced, well ordered, & dignified)**
   4. He demonstrates hospitality (**willing to use his home for ministry)**
   5. Not a drunkard, violent, quarrelsome, or a lover of money **(he’s a peacemaker and content with what he has)**
3. **The Instruction of the Elder (vs 2)…he must be able to teach the word**
   1. **Titus 1:9** – *“must be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.”*
   2. **Acts 6:**2-4 – “… *we will devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word*.”
4. **The Testimony of the Elder (vs 4-5)…the home is the proving ground**
5. **The Experience of the Elder (vs 6 )…he could become prideful**
6. **The Reputation of the Elder (vs 7)…His life is evident for all see**

**How should you respond to these men?**

**1 Thess. 5:12-13 –** with honor, love, respect, and support**!!!**