

**SERIES TITLE: CHURCH ON COURSE**

**PART FIVE: WHO STEERS?**

**TEXT: 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-7**

**INTRODUCTION.**

Timothy was a young pastor who was mentored by the apostle Paul. After Paul left Ephesus, he put Timothy in charge of organizing the churches. False teachers were endangering the mission. These teachers were speculating about obscure and less important matters, instead of preaching new life in Christ. In this letter, Paul encourages Timothy to deal with this situation and tells him how to move forward in ministry. Although addressed to one person, this letter was intended to benefit the whole church.

**DISCUSSION.**

Describe the traits of the type of person you highly respect.

**EXAMINATION.**

- Why is Timothy given this list of qualifications?
- Given what we know about the situation, how will the Ephesian church change if these standards are applied to its leaders?
- Name all the different ways you can possibly understand “husband of but one wife.” Decide which interpretation is best and explain why.
- Are any of the things listed in v.3 not taken as seriously by church people as other items on the list? (e.g. Is drunkenness seen as worse than loving money?) Why or why not?
- What is the principle of vv.4-5 and how can we tell when it is true?
- What if a godly person who meets the other qualifications has a child who is rebellious and a troublemaker?
- How do you tell when someone is no longer a recent convert?
- Does having a good reputation with outsiders mean that every single person must think you’re wonderful? Why or why not?

**APPLICATION.**

- Although applied specifically to church leaders here, why are these qualities important for all Christians?
- Which of these do you find most challenging or are currently working on or have made progress in this past year?
- FACT: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- REACT: What did you feel?
- ACT: What are you going to do?