

Manhood and Womanhood - Part 8

1 Timothy 3:1-13

What is a mature man of God?

A Spirit-filled man who is eager to lead, provide for, and protect women and children with appropriate love, courage, and gentleness.

What is a mature woman of God?

A Spirit-filled woman who is eager to support the worthy leadership, protection, and provision of men with enthusiasm, resourcefulness, and discernment.

1 Timothy 2:12-14

I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

The principle for discernment in all our ministry:

A local church should not put women in authority or teaching roles over men.

“Paul refers, then, with the word for ‘having authority’ to exercise of leadership role or function in the church, and thus by specific application the office of elders since [it involves] the exercise of authority. It is noteworthy, however, that Paul does not use ‘office’ terminology here (bishop/presbyter) but functional terminology (teach/exercise authority). It is thus the activity he prohibits not just the office.” - George Knight

The principle for discernment in all our ministry:

A local church should not put women in authority or teaching roles over men.

- The most flagrant way a church can disobey the Word of God on this principle is by having woman pastors.

The big problem with having a woman pastor is not so much that a woman will be bad at it, but that the crystal clear teaching of the Bible has to be rejected, twisted, or ignored for this situation to be allowed which reveals a seriously flawed way of coming to God’s Word, interpreting it, and responding to it.

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- A secondary way that this principle applies to the church is with reference to the office of deacons.

Though deacons are not called to have the overarching authority that pastors have, they do have a specific domain of leadership that is vital for the whole church.

Pastors are under-shepherds of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who serve the church by leading, feeding, protecting, and caring for the flock.

Deacons are under-stewards of Jesus and the pastors who serve the church by organizing ministry to tangible needs among the body.

1 Timothy 3:1-3

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

1 Timothy 3:4-5

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?

1 Timothy 3:6-7

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.

1 Timothy 3:8-10

Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. ⁹ They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ And let

them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless.

1 Timothy 3:11-13

Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. ¹³ 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.

Observations About Pastors and Deacons:

- 1. Pastors and deacons are the only two New Testament “offices” in the local church.**
- 2. Pastors and deacons do not have the same responsibilities.**
- 3. Pastors and deacons are both positions of servant-leadership to the church.**
- 4. Pastors and deacons should be mature, respectable, trustworthy, Spirit-filled men.**

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- 5. Pastors and deacons must both have sound doctrine but pastors must also be gifted to teach.**

1 Timothy 3:14-16

I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵ if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of truth. ¹⁶ Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

A local church should not put women in authority or teaching roles over men.

- A final way that this applies to the church is for all the men in our church to aspire to be spiritual leaders that the women can happily support and for all the women in our church to use their unique gifts in appropriate ways that do not rival the leadership of men.

Take Aways:

A. We should take the appointment of our pastors and deacons very seriously to ensure that they are biblically qualified men who serve in these leadership positions.

Take Aways:

B. Men should all consider how God wants them to grow to be more of the spiritual leaders in the church they are designed by God to be.

Take Aways:

C. Men should teach in men’s settings and mixed settings and may also teach in women’s settings (though not typically).

Take Aways:

D. Women should look for ways to foster, encourage, support, and receive leadership from men and not assume roles of authority or instruction over men.

Take Aways:

E. Women with leadership and teaching gifts should use them in the incredibly important areas of women's and children's ministry.

Take Aways:

F. Ministry to teens is an important time to start the principle of men teaching the young men but also to have women involved encouraging and nurturing both the young men and the young women in the Lord.

Take Aways:

G. Though women should not speak as teachers or leaders of men, they should speak in many other ways that promote, share, and participate in giving glory to God.

Take Aways:

H. We should all celebrate and be attracted to God's beautiful design for men and women in the home, in the church, and in society in general!