

Good Leaders

February 26, 2023 | 1 Timothy 3:1-13 | Pastor Mike Foster

- The meaning of leadership
 - o Leadership is good
 - o Leaders are servant-shepherds
 - o Leaders are subject to scrutiny

- The measure of leadership: Christlike Character
 - o A countercultural standard
 - o A consistent standard
 - o A current standard

- The making of leaders
 - o Leaders are made by mercy (1 Timothy 1:12-17)
 - o Leaders are made, not born

- The missing leaders
 - o The role of deacons
 - o The need for deacons

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. Who is a leader who has made a difference in your life? Describe that leader's character.
3. Read Matthew 20:20-28. In your own words, describe the kind of leadership that "lords it over" others. How is this kind of leadership different from what Jesus has called us to?
4. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7 out loud together. Which of the qualifications in the text stand out to you?
5. As you think of your own life, which of the qualities listed in 1 Timothy 3 do you want to grow in personally? Why?
6. We shared about our conviction that divorce should not automatically disqualify someone from serving as an elder. What do you think about this conviction? What questions do you have about it? Consider the handout on this issue.
7. In what ways might someone who has suffered divorce experience undue shame (even after repenting of any sins that contributed to the marriage conflict and separation)? How can we better see and serve those around us who have suffered divorce?
8. Spend some time reading Psalm 51. What do you observe about the way David repented of his sin and the way God restored him through mercy?
9. Read 1 Timothy 1:15-17. What do you observe about the role of God's mercy in shaping leaders?
10. Spend some time praying for the leaders of our church and for leaders of churches throughout our region.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

Meditate on 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9

Read about an elder's character: <https://bit.ly/elderscharacter>

Read "The Distinctives of Christian Maturity and Leadership"
- <https://bit.ly/distinctivesofchristianleadership>

Read about Deacons – <https://bit.ly/responsibilitiesofdeacons>

Read *Spiritual Leadership* by J Oswald Sanders

Read *Leading with Love* by Alex Strauch

Watch "The Historical and Spiritual Significance of the Black Church" – <https://bit.ly/significanceblackchurch>

