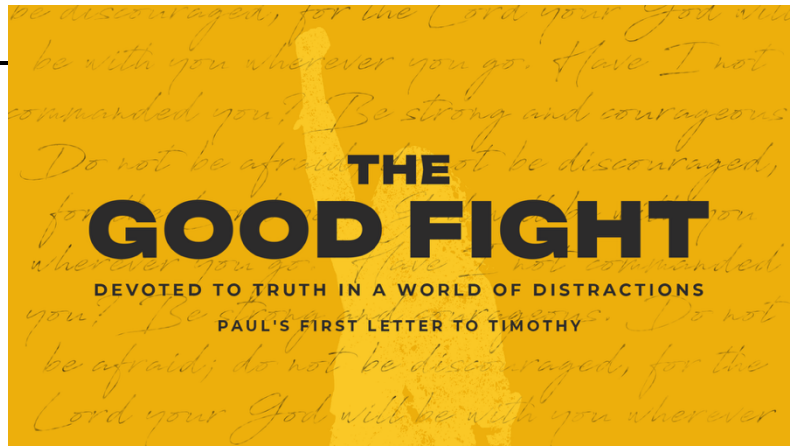


**The Good Fight**

**Devoted to truth in a world of distractions**

**7 – A noble task**

1 Timothy 3:1–7



1. We heard that church leadership is a biblical priority. “Everything rises and falls on leadership.” Share experiences you’ve had personally where elders and pastors were indispensable in helping the church through a challenging season. (1 Timothy 3:1a)
2. Eldering is a “noble task” (1 Timothy 3:1c), and Hebrews 13:7, 17 tells us to obey and submit to the elders. Why do some people find this hard to do? When would it be okay not to obey them?
3. Aspiring to the office is good but campaigning for it isn’t (1 Timothy 3:1b). Humility is required according to 1 Peter 5:5b. Discuss Rick Warren’s comment that “Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less. Humility is thinking more of others. Humble people are so focused on serving others, they don’t think of themselves.” How does “thinking of yourself less” impact every ministry at Harvest?
4. Look at the chart (attached) with the 14 characteristics of an elder that Paul shared in 1 Timothy 3:2-7. Choose one each and share why this one is a good characteristic for an elder to possess.
5. We’re to be imitating our elders and pastors as they imitate Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1). Share which of the characteristics is a bit “messy” in your life right now and let everyone know how you intend to make a change.
6. Pray together for your elders, pastors, pastoral team, and staff team. We need it!

**Series: The Good Fight (1 Timothy)**

**Todd Dugard**

**Message: 7 – A noble task**

**Harvest Bible Chapel**

**Text: 1 Timothy 3:1-7**

**June 8, 2025**

**I must commit myself to...**

**...a local church with biblical priorities (v. 1a)**

Everything rises and falls on leadership.

John Maxwell

**...which esteems the noble task of being an elder (v. 1c)**

Hebrews 13:7, 17

**...by setting apart men who aspire to the role (v. 1b)**

Luke 16:10a

1 Peter 5:5b

Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less. Humility is thinking more of others.

Humble people are so focused on serving others, they don't think of themselves.

Rick Warren.

**...having the character necessary to serve well (v. 2-7)**

1 Peter 5:8

1 Peter 5:9a

**...while I too strive to be like Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1)**

1 John 1:9

The primary characteristic of the Christian elder/pastor/overseer is that his life constantly reflects Christian values, morality, conduct, and integrity; that's the baseline. The list is remarkable for being unremarkable. Indeed, with only a couple of exceptions, all of the qualifications listed here are elsewhere in the New Testament demanded of all Christians.

D. A. Carson

Come as you are, but don't stay as you are.

## RESOURCES

### **Three New Testament terms for the one church office - 1 Peter 5:1-2**

ἐπίσκοπος (episkopos) - bishop/overseer - 1 Timothy 3:1

πρεσβύτερος (presbuteros) - elder - Titus 1:5

ποιμένος (poimenos) - shepherd/pastor - Ephesians 4:11

### **Uncommon Elders**

[harvestbible.ca/uncommonelders](http://harvestbible.ca/uncommonelders)

### **Elder Governance at Harvest**

[harvestbible.ca/elder\\_governance](http://harvestbible.ca/elder_governance)

## Elder Governance at Harvest

- ☒ Male only
- ☒ Elder only
- ☒ Plural
- ☒ Chosen, tested, and set apart
- ☒ Lifetime

## Characteristics of an Elder

1 Timothy 3:1–7

Various lexical sources

1	Above reproach	Not that he's perfect, but that he's consistently living these out and takes responsibility when he doesn't	v. 2
2	The husband of one wife	If married (not required), he is a "one woman man" (monogamous), faithful to his wife; doesn't mean he cannot have been widowed or divorced	v. 2
3	Sober-minded	Clear-minded, moderate, temperate, reasonable, restrained, not given to extremes or rashness	v. 2
4	Self-controlled	Sensible, uses good judgment, thoughtful	v. 2
5	Respectable	Dignified, courteous, honourable, put together	v. 2
6	Hospitable	Warm and welcoming to people, friendly to strangers	v. 2
7	Able to teach	Knowing and able to handle the Word, skilled in the Scriptures, able to instruct others in it	v. 2
8	Not a drunkard	Not an abstainer but not given to much alcohol, not addicted and never impaired	v. 3
9	Not violent but gentle	Not pugnacious, not a brawler, not looking to fight, not intimidating, not having to have his own way, but patient, yielding, kind, gracious	v. 3
10	Not quarrelsome	Not contentious, not a bully, not having to play the devil's advocate, a peaceable attitude	v. 3
11	Not a lover of money	Not greedy, stingy, covetous; his life is not centred on gain	v. 3
12	<i>He must manage his own household well, [having] ...all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?</i>	All aspects of managing the home — marriage, child-rearing, providing for, leading — is the proving ground for eldership; if you're failing (the statement is negative) in the most basic leadership role of husband and father, you cannot and should not be considered for elder	v. 4–5
13	<i>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil.</i>	We know pride is pervasive and at the root of all other sin. A new convert doesn't have the spiritual maturity to handle being placed into a role with such oversight and responsibility; perhaps even seeing it as status (which it isn't) or power (which it isn't); Peter cited the defining characteristic of elders as <i>humility</i> , as we saw earlier.	v. 6
14	<i>Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.</i>	The elder's conduct outside of the church must also be reputable; even unsaved people should say, <i>yeah, makes sense that he's an elder in his church.</i>	v. 7