

Date: **October 3, 2021**

Title: **The Pastor**

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

In the New Testament church, two positions are called out: pastor and deacon. There are several words used to reference pastors; each are synonymous, but each also help define responsibilities. **BISHOP**: an individual with general oversight of the church. Taking care of the Bride of Christ. **ELDER**: an older, more experienced man. Not necessarily related to physical age but spiritual maturity. **PASTOR**: shepherd; leads and feeds the flock. In today's sermon we dive into the qualifications and calling of the men God establishes as Pastor.

I. The Call to Pastor (1 Timothy 3:1)

In this verse, we see Paul's encouragement for those who aspire and desire to be pastors. He describes it as a noble/fine/good work. But it is a calling placed on the heart by God. Paul describes his calling in 1 Cor. 9:16 as being compelled by God. When God calls us to be involved in His work, we cannot rest until we obediently respond.

- **What are characteristics of pastors you've seen that reflect the seriousness of their calling?**
- **Paul urges all of us to "walk worthy of the calling you have received" in [Eph. 4:1-4](#). Even if it's not an 'official position', we all have a calling. How can you do a better job of *walking worthy of your calling*?**

II. The Qualifications to Pastor (1 Timothy 3:2-7)

This passage describes the qualifications for pastors. This list is similar to that of the deacon, except the ability to teach is added. The pastor must be able to teach. He must be able to communicate God's Word in a clear way. He must understand Christian doctrine and live it, guiding others in their pursuit of God and godliness.

- **List the qualifications of a pastor as specified in this passage.**
- **Describe how these qualifications help men, who are called to be pastors, do their job well.**
- **Which qualification would be the easiest for you? Hardest? Why?**
- **Each Christian is to possess some degree of each of these qualifications. What can you do to get better at the 'hardest' qualification?**

III. The Response to the Pastor (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, Hebrews 13:17)

Pastors are charged with the care of the congregation and will give an account one day for how they did. You are charged to support them in their efforts. You are to submit, respect, regard and love them. By supporting the pastor, you are supporting the work of God and helping further His kingdom.

- **How can the support of the congregation directly affect the effectiveness of the pastor?**
- **Describe how a lack of supporting the pastor can affect the growth of the church and limit the spread of the gospel.**
- **What are some tangible things you can do to show your support for our pastor? Will you do them?**

Another way to show support for our pastor is to pray for him daily. Commit to lift him up daily in prayer, asking God to guide and direct him as he "keeps watch over your soul".

If you have a need or a prayer request, contact the church office at [850.878.5503](tel:850.878.5503), office@morningsidetlh.org, or complete the [Prayer Request Form](#)