





A live music performance on a stage. The text "LEAD ME" is displayed prominently on a large screen in the background. The stage is lit with blue and white spotlights. A band is performing, including a lead singer, a keyboardist, a guitarist, and a drummer. The audience is visible in the foreground.

LEAD ME





Winter Series: 1 Timothy: *Stay the Course!*

- Written by Paul to Timothy to help him:
- Stay on track
- Grow in his faith
- Strengthen the church in Ephesus
- "**Stay the course**" is a **phrase** used in the context of a war or battle meaning to pursue a goal regardless of any obstacles or criticism.

Lesson 6: behavior matters!

- **Text: 1 Timothy 3**
- **Qualifications for various church leaders**
- **Not perfection, but progression**
- **Always conclude with worship**

1 Timothy 3, NASB

- ◎ It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires *to do*.² An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,³ not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.

- ④ ⁴ *He must be* one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity ⁵ (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), ⁶ *and* not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.

- ⑦ And he must have a good reputation with those outside *the church*, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

- ⑧ Deacons likewise *must be* men of dignity, not [e]double-tongued, [f]or addicted to much wine [g]or fond of sordid gain, ⁹ *but* holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.

- ① 11 [h]Women *must* likewise *be* dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. 12 Deacons must be husbands of *only* one wife, *and* [i]good managers of *their* children and their own households.

- ① 1³ For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a [i]high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

- ① 14 I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; 15 but [\[k\]](#)in case I am delayed, / *write* so that you will know how [\[l\]](#)one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

- ① 1⁶ By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness:
- ② He who was revealed in the flesh,
Was vindicated in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Proclaimed among the nations,
Believed on in the world,
Taken up in glory.

Leadership . . .

- ⦿ Ever worked for a not-so-good boss?
- ⦿ How did you respond?
- ⦿ Looking back, what might you have done differently –
 - As a worker
 - As a leader?

Church leadership -

- Key words *not* used by Paul:
- Integrity
- Character
- But *must be above reproach*???

we have a problem . .

- ◎ ²³ for *all have sinned* and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
 - Romans 3

Paul's input:

- ⦿ Moral – preferably married
- ⦿ Self-controlled – in both speech and actions
- ⦿ prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,³ not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.

NLT:

- ⦿ So a church leader must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exercise self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must be able to teach. ³ He must not be a heavy drinker or be violent. He must be gentle, not quarrelsome, and not love money. ⁴ He must manage his own family well, having children who respect and obey him.

Perfection here and now?

- ⦿ **Not perfection, but progression**
- ⦿ According to the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* (Q. 35), **sanctification** is “*the work of God’s free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.*” It is a continuing change worked by God in us, freeing us from sinful habits and forming in us [Christlikeness]

● Regeneration is birth;
sanctification is growth.

● Christians becoming
increasingly Christlike

● <https://www.ligonier.org/blog/what-sanctification/>

When we see grace, we worship!

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Application . . .

- In thinking specifically about church leaders, pray for people who 'fit' the Bible's qualifications
- We all are 'leaders' in one sense or another
- We all should aspire to be more like Jesus!