

Dear friends and family,

Trustworthy. Think about that word for a moment. What immediately comes to mind? A specific person? A quote? A company? Maybe it's someone who is NOT trustworthy. Perhaps you cling to a particular scripture verse that has always been trustworthy. Why do you associate the word trustworthy with these thoughts?

The dictionary defines trustworthy as “*able to be relied on as honest or truthful*”.

Think about the first two chapters of 1 Timothy that we have studied. Paul begins by writing about proper doctrine, followed by a petition for the body of Christ to pray, then highlights some behavioral guidelines for men and women. In chapter three, Paul is going to expound more deeply into the specific roles, or offices of the church. Paul begins with the office of overseer or pastor and he opens by stating that it is a trustworthy statement: “*If any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.*”

### **Pastor's Point of View**

The big question this week: **How do we aspire to do something without being conceited?**

#### **Day 1** – READ 1 Timothy 3:1 and Psalm 37:4

1. What does it mean to aspire to an office and desire to “do a work”?
2. How does God put desires into our hearts?
3. Some men desire to be pastors for the recognition they will receive. Do you see evidence of this today?

#### **Day 2** – READ 1 Timothy 3:2-3

All of the qualifications of a pastor are equally important. Each speaks to a different aspect of the man who God calls to this office. It has often been said that God doesn't call the prepared, He prepares the called.

1. Looking at this list of qualifications, do you think a man could meet them without the aid of the Holy Spirit in his life?
2. While all of the qualifications are equally important, it is absolutely vital that the pastor be able to teach. All of the other qualifications are character qualities, while this one point alone is a capability. Why is this important?
3. List out these qualifications and look up the definition of each.

### **Day 3** – READ 1 Timothy 3:4-5

What comes to mind when someone says, “Oh, that’s a preacher’s kid”? Often this is a negative connotation. Why is this? How interesting that this qualification was established over 2000 years ago, but it still is a difficulty for many pastors today.

1. Do you see the correlation between a pastor’s home life and church?
2. Why do you think it is so important for a pastor to manage his family well?
3. Why does the Bible address this? What are the benefits of following this guideline? Detriments for not following it?

### **Day 4** – READ 1 Timothy 3:6-7

Satan will attack ministers. Spiritual warfare is an absolute reality and some of the enemy’s biggest wins are when he can cause a pastor to stumble. For this reason, Paul outlines these qualifications.

1. What struggles would a pastor face if he himself were a new believer?
2. What does it mean to have a good reputation with those outside the church?
3. What are some ways that pastors fall into the “devil’s trap”?

The Bible dictates strong qualifications for a pastor: above reproach, obedient children, self-controlled, respectable and hospitable. But the truth is, all pastors fail. At some point, pastors disappoint, their children misbehave, or another character flaw pops up. Aside from blatant, unrepentant sin, how can a pastor serve, knowing he will, at some point, fail?

1. What are some expectations you may have of a pastor that aren’t biblical or may be unreasonable?
2. What are some ways you can help your pastor?

Knowing that a pastor will face stricter judgement from God should both motivate and intimidate all those who may consider this ministry. It is a position that should not be considered lightly, but instead must be evaluated through much prayer and discernment of God’s will. Serving as a pastor should be seen as a position of service, not one of bragging or conceit, but instead with an attitude of humility and deep awareness of what is truly at stake. Truth, eternity and pleasing God should be at the forefront of the mind of a pastor. But it should also be at the forefront of the mind of every believer!

This week, as you faithfully complete the work of your hands that God has placed before you, consider your heart and your focus. Are you focused on completing a task? On what’s next? Or are you intent on serving God in everything you do without conceit, demonstrating the love of Christ?

**“May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us;  
establish the work of our hands for us—  
yes, establish the work of our hands.” Psalm 90:17**

In faithful service,

-Pastor Matt

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