

Instructions for Elders 1 Timothy 3:1 - 7

A metaphor for this **3T Series** (1 Tim, 2 Tim, Titus) is that of a general contractor who recruits workers (roofers, framers, etc.) to build a house, but has no plans for it.

KenoCC is God's Church, with Christ as its architect. We've imagined Paul as general contractor, hired by God to see that all effort and contributions to the church are kept "to code."

We (you and I) must allow Paul to tell us what Christ (the Head of the Church) has planned for KenoCC. We then build only according to that plan, using our gifts, skills, and efforts.

Review: So far in Paul's Letter . . .

Timothy's Orders: Stay, tell teachers to not teach junk. Ch. 1

Christians' Job 1: Pray for all, for authorities. vv. 2:1-8

Limits for Ladies: Adorn, Behave Selves Rightly. vv. 2:9-15

Instructions for Overseers in the Church vv. 3:1-7

Wait a minute! Who, or What, is an Overseer?

Four interchangeable, biblical terms show distinct facets about an Overseer's work (as believers are called priests, saints, sinners, citizens, Christians, children, or soldiers):

Overseer, *episcopos* - watcher-over
(the "health of the flock" buck stops here)

Pastor, *poimen* - shepherd
(care, feed, protect)

Elder, *presbuteros* - aged, experienced one
(wisdom, values)

Steward, *oikonomo* - manager
(integrity, skill, efficiency, effectiveness)

How Important are Overseers to God's flock?

Acts 20:28 - Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock

Death, or other court-martial action, is the penalty for a sentinel or lookout who gets drunk, falls asleep, or leaves his post in wartime. UCMJ Article 113

Ephesians 5:25-30 - Husbands, love your wives just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

Good to aspire to the work & Good work to aspire to v. 1

But there are standards: vv. 2-3

Above reproach = unarrestable (2x), not criminal
But, Jesus, the prophets (cf. Psa 69:9; Jn 2:17)?

Husband of one wife = man of one woman
Must be married? What about divorced, remarried?

Temperate = circumspect, vigilant
Looking out for God's, others' interests, not self's?

Prudent = sober, moderation in passion, self-controlled

Respectable = on good behavior, orderly

Hospitable = lover of strangers

Apt to teach = teaching one (2x)
Takes full advantage of all true teachable moments

Not addicted to wine = "next to" wine (2x)
"Him & his bottle" v. The "wine battle"

Not pugnacious = smiter, ready to brawl

Gentle = appropriate, moderate, patient

Peaceable = not a brawler (*a + macho*)

No lover of money = not greedy (3x)

And more standards (+ Paul's own commentary): vv. 4-7

Manages house well, kids under control with dignity
(Can't manage own house, can't manage God's church?)

Not a new convert
(so not grow conceited & fall into devil's condemnation)

Have a good reputation with those outside the church
(so he'll not fall into devil's reproach & snare)

Instructions for Elders

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