



WEEK 6 | NICK CARNES

All Scripture is in the Christian Standard Bible (CSB), unless noted differently.

1 Timothy 3:1 This saying is trustworthy: “If anyone aspires to be an overseer, he desires a noble work.”

1 Timothy 3:2-7 An overseer, therefore, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, self-controlled, sensible, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not an excessive drinker, not a bully but gentle, not quarrelsome, not greedy. ⁴ He must manage his own household competently and have his children under control with all dignity. ⁵ (If anyone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of God’s church?) ⁶ He must not be a new convert, or he might become conceited and incur the same condemnation as the devil. ⁷ Furthermore, he must have a good reputation among outsiders, so that he does not fall into disgrace and the devil’s trap.

God places more value on _____ than _____

1 Timothy 3:8-13 Deacons, likewise, should be worthy of respect, not hypocritical, not drinking a lot of wine, not greedy for money, ⁹ holding the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ They must also be tested first; if they prove blameless, then they can serve as deacons. ¹¹ Wives, likewise, should be worthy of respect, not slanderers, self-controlled, faithful in everything. ¹² Deacons are to be husbands of one wife, managing their children and their own households competently. ¹³ For those who have served well as deacons acquire a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Acts 6:1-2, 7 In those days, as the disciples were increasing in number, there arose a complaint by the Hellenistic Jews against the Hebraic Jews that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution. ² The Twelve summoned the whole company of the disciples and said, “It would not be right for us to give up preaching the word of God to wait on tables....” ⁷ So the word of God spread, the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly in number, and a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.

NOTES:

GO DEEPER

This week, read the Scriptures from Sunday and answer these questions:

1. What did you learn from Sunday's sermon? Did you gain new insights?
2. Paul says in 1 Timothy 3:1 that desiring to be an overseer is a noble work. What do you think makes the role of elder or deacon "noble"? How can someone examine whether their desire to lead is rooted in sacrifice and service rather than status or recognition?
3. The sermon emphasized that God values character over competency. Why do you think character matters more than talent or skill in spiritual leadership? In our culture (workplace, politics, even church), where do you see competency being valued more than character? How can we personally guard against that mindset?
4. Being "above reproach" refers to a consistent, credible life both inside and outside the church. What does it practically look like to live "above reproach" at home? At work? Online?
5. Paul ties church leadership to how a man manages his household. Why do you think God connects spiritual leadership to leadership in the home? What does healthy spiritual leadership look like in a family context? If you're not married or don't have children, how does this principle still apply?
6. Paul says leaders must have a good reputation with outsiders. Why is reputation with non-Christians important for gospel witness? What kinds of behaviors damage credibility the most? How can we be intentional about reflecting Christ well in our community?
7. The sermon ended by pointing to Jesus as the embodiment of these qualifications. Which qualification do you see most clearly in the life of Jesus? How does remembering Christ's perfection guard us from turning this passage into a legalistic checklist?