

HOW LEADERSHIP WORKS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

1 Timothy 3:1-16

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Introduction: The book of 1 Timothy is written so that Paul's young associate can lead a regional movement of house churches that flourished in and around the city of Ephesus in the mid-60s AD. The major problem Timothy faces is the emergence of various kinds of false teaching. One form of toxic teaching mingled 1) the message of Jesus with 2) the popular beliefs in 1st century Ephesian culture. This not only caused confusion and division; it significantly threatened the growth of the movement. To resolve this problem, Paul has stressed three things so far in his letter: 1) the importance of solid biblical teaching that both *loves* and *protects*, 2) the cruciality of prayer that facilitates people coming to Christ, and 3) the fostering of a healthy culture between men and women that is not competitive but collaborative. Paul now turns to the subject of leadership. What form of leadership best serves the growing network of house-churches in the region? Since the first century, the subject of leadership has become a robust and expansive field of study. So extensive is this growing body of knowledge, that we can properly call it "general revelation." It is truth about life that has been systematized through science-based study. Therefore, as we explore at this passage, we will look at the biblical foundation and then ask, "How did Paul's words apply back then? And how can they best be applied in the 21st century. And then we'll look at how we apply them in our church. To do this, we'll ask and answer three questions.

1. What leadership paradigm does Paul propose for a local church?

1 Timothy 3:1

2. What is the historical background of Paul's leadership paradigm?

3. **What character should elders possess and those who work with them: the deacons.**

1 Timothy 3:2-7; 8-16

4. **Idea**

5. **Takeaways**