

I Timothy 3 – Sermon #21

I Timothy 3

We find the qualifications for leaders of the church

So far, we have covered all of the qualifications except for one.

I left it out on purpose. I wanted to save it.

It is the 14th qualification found in verse 4

I decided to teach on this particular qualification because today is Father's Day.

Remember this qualification should be true of our spiritual leaders.

Some fathers are regressing, progressing; some fathers don't know what they should be doing.

There is no doubt that our society, in a big way, has lost in most families – the Godly leader, the family overseer – the father.

I have entitled today's sermon "Jesus Christ and the Word of God"

Repeat that with me "Jesus Christ and the Word of God"

I Timothy 3:4

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

I Timothy 3:4-5

Let us pray

You may be seated

Jesus Christ and the Word of God

I. The father is – the ruler of the home

Verse 4 – “one that ruleth his own house”

The word “rule” here means superintendent, and that carries with it three ideas:

First – it means “to stand before in rank.”

- The father stands out before his family as provider, protector and spiritual leader.

A. Provider

He provides for their physical needs

- Including their financial needs. The Bible says that a man who does not provide for his family “has denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel (unbeliever)” (I Timothy 5:8).

B. Protector

He stands out front – he protects – he guards the gates of his home

He doesn’t allow anything that would destroy or hurt his family to reside or invade his home—wrong influences

The father stands guard; he watches his home

C. Spiritual Leader

He stands out front – he leads → to church – in the Bible – in spiritual decisions.

When Dad goes to golf on Sunday and sends his family to church, he tells the kids golf is more important and church is for women

Fathers lead in spiritual things

What kind of man doesn’t lead his children to salvation, to church, in spiritual things?

The greatest decision a child will ever make is in regards to Jesus Christ

Do the kids know how important church is to you? How important Christ is? How important the Scriptures are to you?

The man who serves as a pastor must demonstrate that he can lead people to salvation and holiness because he has done that in his own home

“As for me and my house,” Joshua said, “we will serve the Lord.”

The father must be determined to guide his family spiritually.

This element is most often the overlooked one for men, but it is the most important one.

Dad leads in spiritual matters.

The father is the ruler – He stands out front.

Secondly – to rule the home means “to preside over, to govern,” and this suggests that the leader is the one who directs the business of the home.

He is the regulator – the governor of the home.

He influences the home – he sets the temperature

He is managing his home, overseeing what takes place

He’s invested – he’s active – he’s knowledgeable

Many men act as though they consider home life a mere interlude between working hours

Thirdly – to rule the home means “to practice before” –

- He’s no hypocrite – he is a private success – he is living what he is teaching his family and others
- No man is a success who is a failure at home!
And, there are regrets of old men – it is their failures in their homes . . .

Now, I want you to notice something.

This word “ruleth” is the same word found in I Timothy 5:17 where it says, “Let the elders that rule well.”

This shows the link between leading the home and leading the church.

★In the home, as in the church, it is God's plan for men to assume the leadership role.★

- An elder is to be a what in the home? A ruler
- An elder is to be a what in the church? A ruler—to stand before, to preside over, to practice before.

Alright, if he is going to rule in the church, then he needs to have that same ability, to show that ability in the very first place of a man's responsibilities – which is his home.

The first arena of leadership is our home and the next arena is our church and the next arena is our community, and if the home is not right, the church is not right nor will the community be right.

The father is the ruler of the home

II. **How does he rule the home?** – The Bible says in vs. 4 – One that ruleth **“well.”**

This word **“Well”** is from *kalos* (cal-oce), a rich word that could also be translated “excellently.”

- First – good job of it
- Second – honest job of it
- Third – full / maximum level – that is what it means to rule well.

We have a dichotomy in our society where we have split the two (work/home) – my job is here and my home life is there and I sacrifice my home life for the ministry/business/ dollar.

What oftentimes is the confusing factor is that the man believes the sacrifice is worth it because he can get or have more things for the family and what the family really needs is a father who is home so that he can manage well.

There is a place in Virginia called Mt. Vernon, on the Potomac River, – the home of George Washington – 8,000 acres – was divided into five farms – each farm had its own overseer and staff.

"I shall begrudge no reasonable expense that will contribute to the improvement and neatness of my farms, for nothing pleases me better than to see them in good order ... nor nothing hurts me more than to find them otherwise." George Washington, 1793

George Washington ruled his farms well.

The father is to rule well.

He is to do a good job of it – an honest job – and to do it to a full or maximum level

III. Thirdly, notice what he rules – The Bible says one that ruleth well his own **“house”** – verse 3

“House” means household which includes the man’s family and more, because it reaches to everything connected with the home (the yards, roof, etc.).

So, he must be a good steward of his house and his finances—all the people and resources over which he has responsibility.

Someone, for example, who managed his family well, but mismanaged his money and possessions, would be disqualified.

Fathers are to manage the whole deal – children’s education, all parts

Too many fathers have divided (sectioned) themselves to the family – I’m good at this, and the rest I’m not paying attention to.

IV. You'll notice that in Verse 4 – **who he rules** – the Bible singles out the children.

The single greatest commodity of the home are kids – not the vehicles; not the boat, not cable television

- The man's greatest asset is his wife and from that union – the children are produced.
- Sadly often times, the children are left to manage themselves and when a child is left to himself, he brings shame to his mother and father.

Verse 4 says he is to have his children in subjection.

That word "subjection" means to have the children arranged under him – subordination and obedience.

The same word was used for the wife in Ephesians 5:22 – "Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."

Many times the rebellious wife, the selfish wife, the indulgent wife will lead to rebellious, selfish, and indulgent children.

Now on the flipside of that teaching is that the man is to love his wife as Christ loved the church.

Christ loved the church first and the church did not even deserve it

And when men love their wives that way, women have no problem responding to love like Christ – AMEN!

Now, back to our word "subjection"

Obedience – to obey – do you remember the **old** marriage vows "to honor and obey"?

How many of you ladies said that at your wedding? (date yourself)

That phrase is Biblical – comes right out of the Bible – Ephesians 5:22

So the whole family is arranged under the father – this is the way God intends it.

This man is to have his children arranged under his headship.

- This does not mean that his children are robots.
- They are not programmed like a computer system.
- They are not in the military and, Dad, you are not the drill sergeant.

They have wills and they have minds, and they have needs and they are individual personalities, but he has been the kind of father that has brought those children to arrange their independent wills under his will – just like a believer arranges his independent will under God's will.

His children are under control with all dignity.

It speaks of lining up in rank under one in authority.

- An elder's children are to be respectful, well-disciplined, and believers (Titus 1:6).
- Riot – behaving like an unbeliever (not wild). Unruly – unbridled spirit, unsubdued child – disobedient. Mismanagement in the home will bring unmanageable kids.
- An elder's children must bring honor to their parents.

The obvious implication is that his family is ordered, disciplined, not rebellious.

V. Turn back to I Timothy 3 – look in vs. 4. Look at **how he rules his children**

He is to do this with all gravity – vs. 4d. – with reverence.

That means in a manner worthy of respect.

There is a right way to handle your children and keep them under control and there is a wrong way.

- Discipline – and yes, the Bible teaches spankings – but not abuse.
- Teaching, teaching, teaching.

And, it must be done in a way worthy of respect – whose respect?

Everybody's – the mother's, the children's, the relatives', the church's—it's a respectful arrangement of that family.

If a man's own children cannot obey and respect him, then his church is not likely to respect and obey his leadership.

An elder should have the authority in his own home—without being a dictator – a loving leader – I Peter 5:3 – leading his family, not driving them

The reason a church leader must have a well-managed home is obvious (vs. 5).

I want you to notice something in verse 5—how shall he take **care** of the church?

Different word

The word translated “take care of” in verse 5 suggests a personal ministry to the needs of the church people

Therefore, his home life is to be personal – not distant – it is where we get our hands dirty – it is where we invest – our time, our energy, our love

There is only one other passage in the whole New Testament where this word is used and it may be God used this word to tell us something.

It is used in the parable of the Good Samaritan to describe the care given to the injured man (Luke 10:34-35).

Story of the Jericho Road – A man fell among thieves – left him half dead.

The Samaritan found him and had compassion on him / and **cared** for him.

- He fixed up his wounds
- Put him on his own donkey
- Took him to an inn
- Gave the innkeeper money and told the innkeeper to take care of him, and I will pay you more on my return trip.

Personal interest – personal care of his family – this is the care we are to have for our family

If a man doesn't personally care for his family, how do we expect him to take that kind of gentle, loving care for the church people? sacrificing care

If he can't see to that in his home, how can we expect him to take the right kind of care of dozens, scores, or even hundreds of people in the church? He can't.

You may be here today and you are saying to yourself – Preacher, my dad is the furthest thing from what you're preaching about

Now you listen real close. Don't you ever forget what I am going to tell you.

Forgive your father – give him another chance.

- My father was not involved in my life, and when he was, it was rough.
- I still loved him even in the midst of the junk and hurt and pain he brought.
- See, I was the son of a drunk.

But one day, my father, Benny Johnson, met Jesus Christ and got saved.
His life and eternity were forever changed.

For the first time – he came to watch me play ball – he cared – he showed personal interest.

One night as I left my father's side and went to the door – the old white knob – my dad hollered from the other room, "Wayne" – "Yes, Dad" – "I love you."

It was the first time in my life that my father said those three words to me – I was 17.

It was the last time – for that night my dad, at the age of 42, closed his eyes to sleep and never woke up.

I am so glad that I didn't get so bitter – so angry – as to punish my father for who he was and what he did.

I am the son of a drunk and I'm thankful for it – for this is who I am.
I could not be any more proud of my father than I am today.

My home is a world away from the home I was raised in – and you know what made the difference? Jesus Christ and the Word of God.

And, He can make a difference in your home, life, and He can make you the man you're supposed to be.

Let us stand for closing invitation

Would you invite Jesus Christ into your life today?

We are sinners – we are crooked and bent and warped out of shape

Nothing in the world that can straighten out our wicked person – except for Jesus Christ
– died/bled

Do you need to forgive your father? Get that old bitterness out – poison out – of your system

Fathers, do we need forgiveness? We do.

Dads, are we ruling our homes well?

Our children – are they in subjection?

Do they respect how we are raising them?

Do you need Jesus Christ?

He will make all the difference in your life.

I testify to it. I am an example of it.

His Word says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shalt be saved."

Rear of Document

Small wonder that many North American men identify the core of their lives with their job instead of with their family life and measure their worth, not by the kind of husband and father they are, but by how well they do at work.

Many men act as though they consider home life a mere interlude between working hours. Work becomes longer and longer, and hours at home become shorter.

Spend Quality Time with Them

Wife and children have not only physical needs but emotional needs as well. Set aside blocks of quality time to spend with their wife and children.

Understand the problems of their own household; consider them, and recognize that they exist.

The pastor needs to remind himself constantly that his own family should have an understanding listener and counselor as much as others in his congregation who has troubles.

Be There for Dinner

Make the dinner hour a priority item on his agenda.

Take his wife out for dinner. Plan special times for his children.

Vs. 4

This requires that the man be consistent in his discipline and true to his word.
He should love his children more than his job.

Where is the only place where real character will be revealed?

We need to pray that God will raise up the men because the future of the home depends on it – the future of the church depends on it and the future of our country depends on it.

Of all the qualifications, this is the only one he spends significant time on.

Some of these others we make a great deal of and we are very demanding about but Scripture puts a great deal of importance about this.

“The way in which a man controls his home reveals his capacity for leadership and government.”

Before one is given the “care of the church,” he should be established in the Scriptures. If his obedience to the Scriptures is neglected, it is likely to be demonstrated in his home.

If his home life is neglected, it may indicate his defect in the Scriptures and disqualifies him for the care of the church.

It is possible for a man to meet the moral qualifications for a pastor, yet be disqualified because of his evident lack of leadership in the home.

It is that the very hub of my life is my relationship with God – my relationship to God has to be my first responsibility as a servant of God.

If this is not true of us, then everything else is off balanced.

If he cannot do that with two, three, four, five, or more people in his home, how could he do it in the church of God with a church full of people?

For Christians, the church and the home are one: We should oversee both of them with love, truth, and discipline.

The pastor cannot be one thing at home and something else in church.

If he is, his children will detect it, and there will be problems.

- things are running smoothly in his house—

If he succeeds in his family, he is likely to succeed in God's family.

If not, he is disqualified.