



Church of God (Seventh Day) Croydon Branch Bible Studies

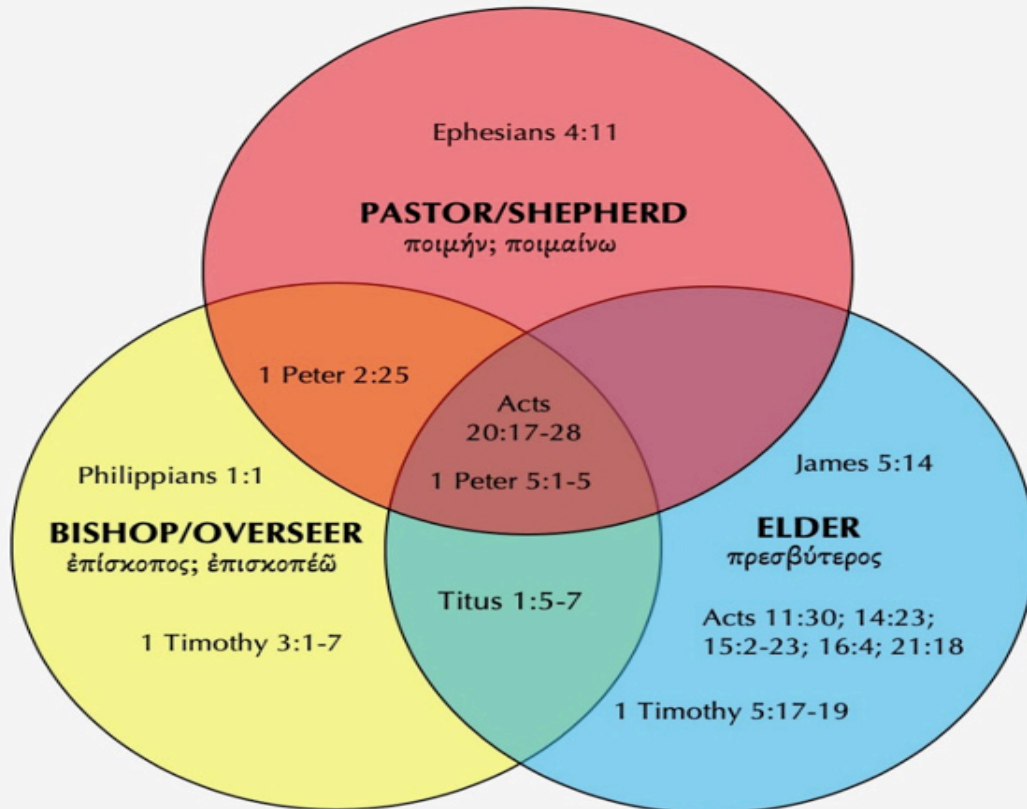
1 Timothy 3

**Qualifications for Leaders Part 1
(Bishops, Pastors, Elders 3:1-7)**

A Pastor is a shepherd; someone who tends to a flock

A guardian; a keeper; specifically (Eccl.), a minister having the charge of a church and parish.

Modern-day churches recognize different roles for **pastors** and **bishops** depending upon the denomination. Methodists, Episcopalians, Lutherans and Catholics recognize **bishops** in roles above the congregational level, while other denominations recognize **pastor** and **bishop** equally as leaders of a congregation.



- A bishop means "an overseer," originally the principal officer or pastor of a local church, but later evolved into a position of supervision over multiple churches.
- An overseer of congregations: either any such overseer, generally speaking, or an official in the church hierarchy (actively or nominally) governing a diocese, supervising the church's priests, deacons, and property in its territory.
- a clergyman having spiritual and administrative authority; appointed in Christian churches to oversee ministers;

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¹ This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

³ Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

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¹ What I say is true [*or* This saying/word is trustworthy; [1:15](#); [4:9](#); [2 Tim. 2:11](#); [Titus 3:8](#)]: Anyone ·wanting [aspiring] to become an ·overseer [^T bishop; ^C perhaps the same as elder; [3:6, 7](#); [5:17](#); [Titus 1:5–6](#)] desires a ·good [honourable; noble] ·work [role; position].

² An overseer must not give people a reason to criticize him [have a good reputation; be above reproach], and he must have only one wife [*or* be faithful to his wife]. He must be ·self-controlled [sober], wise [have good judgment], respected by others, ready to welcome guests [hospitable], and able to teach.

³ He must not drink too much wine or like to fight [be violent/a troublemaker], but rather be gentle and peaceable [not quarrelsome/contentious], not loving money [avaricious; greedy].

▪ **If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.**
There is the tendency to think this is a dignified, ecclesiastical office, entailing little or no responsibility, whereas overseer ship is actually humble service among the people of God; it is work.

▪ **A bishop, then, must be blameless.**
This means that no charge of serious wrong can be sustained against him. It does not mean that he is sinless or perfect, but rather that if he does commit some fault, he makes it right with both God and man. He must be irreproachable, not having a tarnished scandalous reputation which brings the Church, ministry and the leadership office into disrepute, both internally and in the community. His behavioural life commands a level of respect due to the office.

BISHOPS BEHAVING BADLY

- In 2015, he asked his congregation to donate \$300 each – to his fundraiser. For what, you ask? A [\\$65 million private Gulfstream jet](#), so that he could travel safely and comfortably to spread the word of the Gospel

> BISHOP CREFLO DOLLAR (Georgia, USA)

- In the 1990s, he was exposed for failing to remove sexually abusive priests from his congregation and for covering up the abuses for years.

> CARDINAL BERNARD LAW (Boston, USA)

- Mega-church founder in 2006, a gay prostitute came forward [claiming he'd had an affair](#) with the seemingly straightlaced, married father of four. He was eventually forced to step aside to let his wife become pastor.

> TED HAGGARD (Colorado Springs, USA)

BISHOPS BEHAVING BADLY

- In 2010, several young boys came forward and accused their church Bishop of [sexual abuse](#). Despite the accusations, He remained a respected member of his Church until his death from cancer in 2017..
- > **BISHOP EDDIE LONG (North Carolina, USA)**
 - This famous television evangelist made a shocking, on-camera confession. He admitted to "[moral indiscretions](#)" and "incidents of moral failure" as tears streamed down his face on live television, and asked his followers and family for forgiveness before ultimately stepping down from his post.
- **JIMMY SWAGGART (Louisiana, USA)**
 - He was one of the bolder [frauds in televangelist history](#). He claimed to be able to diagnose (and cure) any of his churchgoers' hidden diseases just by asking the heavens for help. He was later revealed to be wearing a wire, through which his wife would feed him the information. He now sells bottled water on late night infomercials.
- **PETER POPOFF (German/ USA)**

- **the husband of one wife.**

Different commentators

- 1) The Bishop must be married to have a proper breadth of experience and have children
- 2) If the Bishops wife dies he must not marry again
- 3) Bishop must not have been guilty of any unfaithfulness or irregularity in his marriage
- 4) Bishop must not be a polygamist. E.g A polygamist gets saved and perhaps has 4 wives at the time. Should he put away wives which plunges them into poverty. His life would be contrary to Man and wife as laid down in Genesis.

- **Temperate** refers not only to matters of food and drink, but also to the avoidance of extremes in spiritual matters.
- **Sober-minded** means that this man is not giddy or frivolous. He is serious, earnest, discerning, and discreet. He realizes that as “dead flies putrefy the perfumer’s ointment, and cause it to give off a foul odor; so does a little folly to the one respected for wisdom and honour” (Eccl. 10: 1).
- A bishop must be of **good behaviour**, that is, he must be well-ordered in his habits.
- **Hospitable** signifies that he is a lover of strangers. His home is open to saved and unsaved alike, and he seeks to be a blessing to all who come beneath his roof.

- An elder must be **able to teach**. As he visits those with spiritual problems, he must be able to turn to the Scriptures and explain the will of God in such matters. He must be able to feed the flock of God (1 Pet. 5: 2) and to use the Scriptures in refuting those who bring false doctrines (Acts 20: 29– 31).
- He must be able to set forth the doctrines of the faith and rightly divide the Word of Truth, and is ready and keen to do it. 3: 3
- The **expression given to wine means addicted to alcoholic drinks**. The bishop must not be a man who over-indulges in wine and thus causes quarrels, that is, abusive brawlings.
- **Not violent** means that this man does not use physical violence on another. Not a wife beater or child abuser.
- **Not greedy for (lucre) money** are not found in some ancient manuscripts, but are in the majority. 9 The love of money will bear evil fruit in the church as well as in the world.
- An **elder must be gentle**. In his work in the church, he will need forbearance, patience, and a spirit of yieldedness. This does not mean that they are a pushover but rather exercise authority with meekness.
- He must **not be quarrelsome, contentious**, and **arguing about every little thing**. He does not insist on his own rights but is even-tempered and congenial.
- A bishop must **not be covetous**, that is, a lover of money. Here the emphasis is on the word “lover.” He is concerned with the spiritual life of the people of God and refuses to be distracted by a strong desire for material things. 3: 4

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⁴ One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

⁵ (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

⁶ Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

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⁴ He must ·be a good family leader [^Lmanage/lead his own household well], having children ·who cooperate with full respect [who obey and respect him; *or* whom he controls with dignity].

⁵ (If someone does not know how to ·lead [manage] his own ·family [household], how can that person take care of God's church?)

⁶ But an elder must not be a ·new believer [recent convert], or he might ·be too proud of himself [become arrogant] and ·be judged guilty just as the devil was [*or* incur the same punishment as the devil; [1:20](#)].

How some Pastor's kids may feel

“You Put The Church Over Me.”

Danger in putting the mission above their need to have a parent.

“Don't Expect Me To Be Perfect.” “I'm Scared Of Making Mistakes.” “My Shortcomings Are Not Always A Reflection Of My Parents.”

Children always on show. Pastor's kids are scrutinized through a magnifying glass, compared to other kids; some people just waiting for them to slip up with comments made such as. “I would expect better of you knowing who your Parents are.”

“I Need One-On-One Time.” Every child is different. Need time an individual level.

“I Need Affirmation.” “I am proud of you” “Well done”

“I Don't Always Have the Capacity “I Don't Want To Go Into Ministry.” to Serve.” or “Don't Make Me Volunteer For Every Activity/Ministry/Event.”> “PK's have to keep up with school work and have other interest too.

“The calling of the Parent is not necessarily the calling of the child”

“I hear what you say about my Mom and Dad.” Criticism gets back to children and they internalise it more than parents in ministry

“There Is A Difference Between Being A Pastor And Being A Parent.” Pastor's kids usually love that their parents are in ministry helping people. However, it doesn't mean that they want the lines to be blurred at [home](#). Every kid needs parents who are present and not stuck in their church roles. When an accountant comes home from work they should avoid talking strictly numbers with their children. Likewise, when pastors come home, it is important for them to compartmentalize and be present with their kids and avoid bringing work home.

<https://www.vanderbloemen.com/blog/understand-pastors-kid>

In order to be recognized as an overseer, a man must rule his own house well, having his children in submission to him. This qualification would apply as long as a man's children are living in his home. After they have gone off and started to raise their own families, there would no longer be the same opportunity for demonstrating this subjection. If a man rules his own house well, he will avoid the extremes of undue harshness and of unrighteous leniency.

3: 5 The argument here is clear. Unless a man shows fitness to rule his own home, how will he ever expect to take care of the church of God? In his own home, the number of persons is comparatively small. They are all related to him, and most of the members are very much younger than he. In the church, on the other hand, the numbers are apt to be much greater, and with this increase in numbers there goes a corresponding diversity of temperaments. It is obvious that if a man is unfit to rule in the smaller sphere, he would be clearly disqualified for the larger.

Verse 5 is important because it defines the work of an elder. It is to take care of the church of God. Notice it does not say “to rule” the church of God. An elder is not a despot, or even a benevolent ruler, but rather one who guides the people of God as a shepherd guides the sheep. The only other time the expression “take care of” is used in the NT is in the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 34). The same tender, compassionate care shown by the Good Samaritan to the victim of the robbers should be shown by the elder who cares for the church of God.

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⁷ Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

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⁷ An elder must also have ·the respect of [a good reputation among] ·people who are not in the church [^L outsiders] so he will not ·be criticized by others [fall into disgrace; be caught in a scandal] ·and [*or* and in this way] ·caught [ensnared] in the devil's trap.

3: 6 **Not a novice**. A recent convert to Christianity, or a person who is young in the faith, is not qualified to be a bishop. The work requires men of experience and understanding in the faith. The danger is that a novice might become puffed up with pride and then fall into the same condemnation as the devil. Condemnation of the devil does not mean the judgment which Satan brings on a man, but rather the judgment which fell on Satan himself because of his pride. He sought a high position for which he was not qualified, and as a result, he was brought low.

3: 7 A bishop is a man who must have a **good reputation in the community**. Those who are outside refers to unsaved neighbours. Without this good testimony, he becomes subject to the accusations of men and the snare of the devil. The accusations may come from believers and unbelievers alike. The snare of the devil is the trap which Satan lays for those whose lives are not consistent with their profession. Once he has caught men in this trap, he holds them up to ridicule, scorn, and contempt.

Corequalities of an Effective Pastor



CHARACTER

The foundational quality, allows the character of Christ to be formed in us and modeled through personal integrity with the following professional standards of ministry

DESCRIPTORS:

- Discerns and follows the leading of God
- Passionate for God and compassionate for others
- Loyal to Christ and the mission and beliefs of His Church
- Faithful to biblical, moral, and ethical principles
- Humble, trustworthy and honest
- Discerning, open and impartial
- Motivated, disciplined, and resilient



EVANGELISM

Skilled and passionate about making disciples, helping people accept, internalize, and share in a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ the Seventh-day Adventist message

DESCRIPTORS:

- Fosters spiritual maturity through Biblical spiritual disciplines
- Effective teacher/mentor
- Successful in leading and promoting small group ministries
- Advocates for the marginalized
- Facilitates the full cycle of evangelism/discipleship
- Effective in gaining decisions and incorporating pre- and new members
- Advances Church Planting



LEADERSHIP

Building a Church vision and equipping members to learn, grow, and serve

DESCRIPTORS:

- Empowers church to strategically pursue mission
- Equips, motivates, and empowers every member in gifts
- Models servant-leadership
- Inspires excellence
- Makes wise decisions
- Supportive team player
- Champions Adventist education



WORSHIP

Facilitating an enriching corporate worship experience that brings people into the presence of God

DESCRIPTORS:

- Christ-centered Biblical preaching
- Well-prepared worship experiences
- Ensures the creation of inviting church entry points (phone, web, etc.)



MANAGEMENT

Executing responsibilities in a timely and well-organized fashion

DESCRIPTORS:

- Skilled in organizing special events
- Responsible in financial oversight
- Promotes risk and crisis management
- Gets things done on time
- Skilled in church governance
- Practices/promotes holistic stewardship
- Articulates clearly in oral and written communication
- Available to members and insures visitation
- Proficient in computing and social media



SCHOLARSHIP

Diligently and carefully studying the Bible and professional resources for continuous personal growth in Christ

DESCRIPTORS:

- Well-read
- Prepared academically
- Comprehensive Biblical knowledge
- Masters exegesis, hermeneutics, and relevant application
- Comprehensive and well-integrated doctrinal knowledge
- Current on best practices of ministry
- Seeks member feedback for continual professional growth
- Fulfills continuing education requirements
- Develops church as a thinking and learning community



RELATIONSHIP

Relating well to others regardless of faith, age, ethnicity, personality, or gender

DESCRIPTORS:

- Participates actively in church life
- Skilled in conflict resolution
- Competent in family dynamics
- Loves and forgives people unconditionally
- Adapts well to new situations
- Maintains relational boundaries and confidentiality
- Effective in spiritual care and mental health screening
- Hospitable
- Listens empathetically and communicates effectively
- Utilizes cultural intelligence

End of 1 Timothy 3 (Part 1) 1-7