

How to Take the Right Decision Part 11

“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; 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. 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.” (1 Timothy 3:1-7 KJV)

The church continue to have the responsibility to provide workers who are trained and prepared to lead their families, to lead the congregations of the church and to lead people into the whole will of God and to help them to know and implement God's will in their lives and to help them to take the right decisions. **As we desire to reach new people, then we need to continue to raise leaders to lead others.**

The church needs to use the criteria from God's Word in choosing faithful people and put them as church servants or ministers to help people in their walk with God.

1 Timothy 3 is one of the important passages that speak about such criteria to choose Godly men to lead God's church and help people to draw near to God.

“1 This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.” (1 Timothy 3:1 KJV) It is a true and correct saying, that if any believer desire to be a bishop to lead God's church and to lead others he desire and looking to do a good work. **Leading is doing good work and not to be there to enjoy the office of bishop and keep the position to boast.** He is there because he delights and he desires to serve God and do the good work that God had prepared for him to do. *** To find such a person who would be mindful to do God's work and is not corrupted by any other wrong motive is the noble task for the church to do today. * What we mean here by bishop is a person in the position of leading a church or a congregation of the church and he can be also called pastor, leader or elder. * The Holy Spirit will call people to such task, and the church is to test them in order to equip them, and to find out who are those who are called by God and are willing to obey and work with God to achieve certain characters and accomplishments, and those who are not willing to obey and those who have wrong motives and exclude them until they will repent and change what is in their hearts and be willing to change their attitudes and do what God is please with. For this reason the Church of God had criteria for that, taken out from God's Word and as the following:**

“2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach.” (1 Timothy 3:2 KJV)

1. “A bishop then must be blameless”: It means there is nothing in his present history or reputation bound to evil or link with a sin that has not dealt with or repented from and cleared.

2. “the husband of one wife”: The bishop should have one wife only. His marital status is beyond doubt. There is no way for polygamy and no way for divorce and remarriage. He is not divorced and married to another while his previous wife is still alive. He should not marry a divorced woman. Those who would follow God they ought to be example to others in this matter. **The world is full of polygamies, and divorce and remarriage, therefore those who serve God should be cleared from such sin so they can lead others out of it.**

3. “vigilant”: It means he is watchful, on his guard, attentive, alert, cautious, observant, using his head to analyze things, aware and on the alert to what he needs to look, to observe and to follow. He is not oblivious which means unaware, unconscious, unmindful, careless, ignorant, or insensible. Jesus said to us, ***“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.” (Matthew 10:16 KJV)*** Jesus wants us to be vigilant, to be aware and alert as wise as serpents, which use their head to collect data and analyze all the information and process them to make a wise decision and what they need to do.

4. “sober”: It means self-disciplined, able to think with his mind and not with his heart. He is self-denying for his pride and not controlled by anger or emotion. He is a serious person but not acting in haste. **He is temperate, moderate, restrained, thoughtful, calm, grave, unexcited and subdued and can control himself.**

5. “of good behavior”: It means he can take good action and good performance; he has good deeds, has good activities, and good manners and attitudes.

6. “given to hospitality”: It means he welcome people; he has kindness; willing to give and spend, and having generosity when that is needed. He is not unfriendly, or unsociable, or having hostility.

7. “apt to teach”: He is able or fit to educate, to instruct, to tutor, to edify, to coach, and to train. **He is fit to make disciples and followers of Christ.**

“3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous.” (1 Timothy 3:3 KJV)

8. “Not given to wine”: A man of God should not drink, because wine changes the mental status of the mind and hinder the person from thinking right, and will be hindered to take the right decision and direct the people into the whole will of God and achieve His justice, ***“4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: 5 Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.” (Proverbs 31:4-5 KJV)*** If the bishop will drink he will loss his mind and will not be able to think wisely and take right decisions to help those who are afflicted and need right spiritual advice. Some churches they use and allow drinking wine and that is against the command of God, ***“8 And the LORD spake unto Aaron, saying, 9 Do not drink wine nor strong drink,***

thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations:” (Leviticus 10:8-9 KJV)

9. **“no striker”**: It means he is not a person on strike, or a protester or easily get engaged in a fight using his hands. A bishop needs to be self-controlled and patience, and need to tactfully face struggles and those who oppose him and those who are trying to make troubles and disturb the ministries of God.

10. **“not greedy of filthy lucre”**: It means he is not a person who is greedy for money or profit of material things, especially when it comes from, or obtained by dishonest means. The bishop who leads God’s work should not look into or let his focus directed to gain material things, *“15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” (1 John 2:15-17 KJV)*

11. **“patient”**: He is enduring, tolerant, unwearied, uncomplaining, not murmuring, long-suffering, serene, calm, tranquil, peaceful, quiet, still.

12. **“not a brawler”**: A brawler is a man who engages in rough or noisy fights or quarrels especially if this is happening repeatedly. A bishop should refrain from such bad attitude, and should engage his affairs with the leading of the Holy Spirit as dictated by Him of what He needed him to do, and through prayers he would receive guidance from God.

13. **“not covetous”**: By covetous means greedy, desirous, jealous and envious to others who have the things that he does not have. The Word of God teaches us not to covet, *“17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.” (Exodus 20:17 KJV)* The one who covet desires to get the things of others. That is mean he is not satisfy or content with what he received from the Lord. Such attitude may progress to plan to grab or conspire to take the things of others. Covetousness may progress to stealing, and taking things that he ought not to take. The man of God who set his heart to become bishop should not covet material and worldly things in the world and in the life of the people around him or those who are spiritually under his care.

14. **“4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity.” (1 Timothy 3:4 KJV)** Bishop should know how to rule his family and lead them into obedient life in the fear of the Lord. He should manage his house well, into the plan of God, strategically and well spiritually into the whole will of God and in accordance to the good plan that God had for them including all aspects of life; education, stewardship, finances, management, etc. Even to his children he should lead each and every one of them in the plan of God that the Lord has for each one of them.

The Greek word for ‘ruleth’, is ‘Proistemi’, and it means to be over or to set over, to superintend, to preside over, to be a protector or guardian, or to give aid, to care for, to

give attention to, to profess honest occupations toward his family. This word ‘ruleth’ which is ‘Proistemi’, is repeated in other places in the Scriptures as in the following:

A. **“Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy,” (Romans 12:8 KJV)** To rule is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The bishop should rule with diligence his wife and children. The ruling over the wife should continue until death separate them. The ruling over the children should continue even to the time that they are put in marriage and to continue after that as well.

B. **“12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;” (1 Thessalonians 5:12 KJV)** The bishop is to labor for the wellbeing of his family, securing good things and the future for them, and keep admonishing them and leading them into the right way of life.

His children should submit to him in the fear of the Lord as he is imparting to them the faith and the daily message of God in their lives. His children should seriously take the teaching they received from their father with great importance and apply faithfully in their lives. Now these instructions is not only applicable for the bishops but for every Godly father over his family and children.

The Greek Word for ‘subjection’, is ‘Hupotage’, which means, obedience, subjection, or the act of subjecting, and is repeated in other places as in the following:

A. **“Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;” (1 Corinthians 9:13 KJV)** Here Apostle Paul described the giving in the church of the Corinthians was due to their subjection to the gospel of truth.

B. **“4 And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: 5 To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.” (Galatians 2:4-5 KJV)** Here Apostle Paul described his refusal and gave no place of subjection to false brothers who infiltrated their ranks and tried to impose circumcision to the Gentile believers which Paul refused totally that false teaching of them, so that the truth of the gospel will continue in the churches of the Galatians, as we can read here: **“And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage.” (Galatians 2:4 KJV)**

So, **“having his children in subjection with all gravity”**, mean that they need to follow the truth and subject to the truth, as their father is giving these truth to them.

15. **“5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)” (1 Timothy 3:5 KJV)** Now here it is clear that the bishop should know how he need to rule his family members and manage their lives and the strategic future plan that God had for them, before he will go to do that for others.

Now certain times the bishop is the first convert of his family, and his wife and children are not believers; in such a situation, if he is called to lead and he is obedient and carry the rest of the qualifications that the Word of God states then he deserves to keep what God had called him to do and the church should support him until his family be fully willing to be subject to the Word of God that he is giving to them.

Now one more important point about that, if the bishop is willing to rule his family with the Word of God but his wife and children are not willing to follow or fighting him because he is disciplining them then he is still fit to lead the ministry or the congregation that God had placed him on because he is obedient. There are brethren serving God with me that their wives are fighting back for the discipline that they received from their husbands, therefore I am supporting them to continue to do their ministry. God wants such people to lead the church who even does not compromise with to their own families.

16. “6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.” (1 Timothy 3:6 KJV) The bishop should not be a novice, which means he should not be a beginner, a learner, and still under training, and has not yet the required experiences to do the work of God. Experiences in Christ mean trials and hardships that the person had passed through and such had added to him humility and the rest of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in addition to the fear of the Lord. People will be more humbling down and put aside their pride while they are passing through trials of life as they commit their ways to God to continue to serve the Lord. Also those older in age are having more experiences and more testimonies that speak about their faithfulness and their perseverance toward the Lord.

“lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil”: Putting a person in a position of bishop with less experience and giving him power and authority may corrupt the person and inject him with pride that the devil will use to push him to do wrong things. **Therefore the bishop needed not to be recently converted; neither young in age, nor of less experience so he will not be easily lifted up with pride and easily tempted by the devil and be condemned.**

One more thing we need to speak about a bishop; there are churches who will choose and purchase their pastors, that is not correct. What is correct is that the pastor will plant the church, **that the bishop will gain his position by his service and not that someone else will appoint him over a work that he did not labor and work for it.**

17. “7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.” (1 Timothy 3:7 KJV)

“Moreover, he must have a good report of them which are without”: The bishop should have a good reputation outside the church, especially about the moral aspect, so that will invite others to Christ, and attract them to hear the message. Of course certain times because of the message of holiness and condemnation of sin, the bishop is of bad report to those who hate the truth. In such situation that is correct and acceptable. Many bishops had been of good reputation because their good deeds had led them to help many who are poor and needy and had helped the society that is around them. Also many bishops with their non compromising messages had caused the people around them to hate them.

“lest he fall into reproach”: If the bad reputation of the bishop had come because of sin or sinful practices in his life that he did not repent from like his lust for women, drinking, or stealing, that will cause him to be in bad reputation to the outsider who will reproach him and admonish him for his sins and that his bad example will be a negative point against him and against the ministry and the name of the Lord. In such a way the ministry will be blamed.

“lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil”: If there is a sin in his life, the devil will use that to snare him and trap him to do other sins and that will bring more harm to the ministry and the church of the Lord. Sins in his life will lead him to break out into more burst of anger, fighting, telling lies, stealing, immoralities, injustice, corruption, etc.

My dear and beloved: The church should continue to endure to raise men and women to serve God and to lead others and to help them to take the right decision. The church should use the criteria of God’s Word in such a task to find out and to outline the criteria clearly for those who are called by God to do such a task.

Now let us come to the Lord and observe how much we are doing of all these instructions of God’s Word in **1 Timothy 3**. These instructions are not only for bishops but for everyone who had set his heart to serve the Lord. Every one need to observe that so that he will be blessed, his family will be blessed and he will be a blessing to others and help them and guide them to take the right advice and implement in their lives.

Come now to the Lord and examine yourself how much you have of these criteria that God wants you to possess to lead and guide others in Christ Jesus our Lord. Now as God is calling you be willing to work with God to change your attitude and behavior to possess good qualities so you can be a good example to others. As you desire to reach the lost and to help them to follow Christ, then you need to be willing to be changed and develop these characters in order to help others, to reach them out and to lead them to follow Christ. *You need to be blameless, the husband of one spouse, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach, not given to wine, not striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; patient, not a brawler, not covetous, one that ruleth well your own house, having your children in subjection with all gravity, not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride you fall into the condemnation of the devil, to have a good report of them which are without; lest you fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*

Repent now of all the sins that contradicts the teaching that we received in this message, and commit your life once again to serve the Lord. I believe that God sent His Word to you calling you to serve Him, to be a man and a woman of God to manage your life well and to help your family and lead them in the Godly way and to help others around you to take the right decision in their lives.

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the admonition and the correction that I received from your Word. Lord, thank you for the clear characters

that I learned from your Word that teaches me of how I need to be in order for me to serve you, and be able to lead others.

Confess now your sins and renounce them. Confess your pride, selfishness and your wrong motive in serving the Lord. Renounce your non reading to God's Word and your irregular life of prayers. Renounce your own plan and your own will and your bad example to others. Renounce your anger, fighting and quarreling, lack of patience and self-control. Renounce your less input towards your family and your care for them. Repent and renounce your lies, dishonesty, your immoralities and lust. Renounce your bad stewardship and your laziness, wasting your time on the Media and having fellowship with non believers. Repent of your love of money and your dishonest gain. Renounce your non willingness to serve God according to His Word and will, and your non willingness to suffer for him. Lord forgive me I repent of the following sins

Lord I commit myself to the principles that I learned in this message. Lord I commit myself to work with you to correct my characters and attitudes that goes along the Word of you that we study in this message. Lord I commit myself to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit; love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, patience, faith, perseverance, long-suffering and self-control, that people may see Christ in me. Lord I commit myself to go on and serve you, willing to live in your plan and according to your will, and to be willing to serve you and suffer for you and to be a good example to others that they will see Jesus in my life.

Lord thank you for all my brothers and sisters who repented of their sins and came back to you, willing to undergo changes and transformation to be in the figure and the shape that you want them to be and to live the style of life that you want them to live for you. Lord help them in their lives and provide for them so they will serve you. Lord use them to reach others, and disciple new people to lead them to follow you. Lord protect them and make them grow and use them to lead others and bring them to you.

Lord bless us as your church and help us to train and raise new workers according to the characters that we study in your Word. Lord lead us with the Holy Spirit to choose the right people who will be used by you to lead the congregations and the ministries in your church. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and serve you, to evangelize, making new disciples, training new workers, and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church and to reach out new people and new places. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God'. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.

How to Take the Right Decision Part 11. 1 Timothy 3:1-16. Matthew 10:16. Proverbs 31:4-5. Leviticus 10:8-9. 1 John 2:15-17. Exodus 20:17. Romans 12:8. 1 Thessalonians 5:12. 1 Corinthians 9:13. Galatians 2:4-5.

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