

A NOBLE TASK

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What do you think it means to work in ministry? Would you encourage someone down that career path? Why or why not?
- Identify someone in your life that you think is a good leader? What qualities make them a good leader? Conversely, identify someone you think is a bad leader. What qualities do they have that lead you to this opposite conclusion?

Being a leader can be daunting. It can feel like being in a fishbowl, with people watching your every move. Fear of failure can stop many from ever trying to become a leader. So when Paul says desiring to lead God's people is a noble task and follows this declaration with a near impossible list of qualifications for any sinner to maintain perfectly, it can stir feelings of both relief and intimidation. Yet, we can also receive much encouragement by studying Paul's description and discovering why desiring leadership in any capacity among God's people is noble.

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- How can Paul's characteristics of a leader help all believers live our lives transparently as witnesses to the gospel? If all Christians behaved and lived this way, how do you think it would affect how the world perceives Christians and the church?
- In your experience, do you think Paul's guidelines have been misinterpreted or applied too literally over the years? What do you think is at the heart of the picture he's creating of an honorable/noble leader?
- How do we avoid falling into legalism or expecting perfection from our leaders?
- One of our human struggles is figuring out how much weight to give the opinions of others. For example, a student may enjoy science and do experiments as a hobby. When other students tease the individual for their hobby, maybe call them nerdy, an adult is likely to say, "Don't worry about what they think, it's not important." As adults, sometimes we take pride in not conforming, saying "I don't care what anybody thinks of me, I'm going to be myself!" Yet in segment 3, host Dave Bast states that many of Paul's qualifications have to do with reputation and how people perceive you, which indicates there are times where what people think of us is important to consider. So what is the difference between these situations? Is there an appropriately balance between being concerned with how people perceive us and not being too concerned with what others think of us? Are these ever in conflict with each other?
- In segment 3, Dave suggests that the point of Paul's list of qualifications for a leader is to express that a leader is one whose heart mirrors the heart of Jesus. How would you describe the heart of Jesus? Which scripture passages or biblical stories demonstrate these traits?

Related Passages

- **Titus 1:5-9**
- **1 Peter 5:1-11**
- **Philippians 2:1-16**
- **Proverbs 16**

Conclusion

How are you called to model godly leadership for the next generation, for your family, and for your community? Pray about this question and take time to write down your answers. Also, think about the ways you can encourage and support your leaders in the growth and flourishing of their biblical qualifications for leadership.

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Printed on April 20, 2024