

Women's Bible Study Discussion Questions

I Timothy 3

1. The first verse in chapter 3 says that the office of overseer or elder is a *noble* task. Noble is defined as the state or quality of being exalted in character, having or showing qualities of high moral character such as courage, generosity or honor. (Read also I Peter 5:1-4.) Why would this office of elder be a noble task?
2. The word overseer and elder are used interchangeably in Scripture. List the characteristics of an elder. Which ones have been particularly important to you in your experience of the church? Is there a particular time you benefitted from their oversight?
3. Deacon means servant. It seems that deacons deal with practical affairs. Why do you think it is emphasized that they also must hold to correct doctrine?
4. In the section on deacons (vv. 11-12), "their wives" are mentioned as requiring qualifications. Why might this be when elders' wives are not mentioned? (The Greek word translated wives here can also mean women.)
5. When Paul uses the term "household of God" (v. 14) it makes us think of a family. How has the church been a family to you?
6. The final section (v. 16) was probably a hymn in the early church. What does it express? Why do you think Paul ends the chapter with the reminder of Jesus's life and mission?