

1 Timothy 3 — Identifying Women Leaders in the Church

The fabric of your life determines your qualifications for leadership

“Women must likewise be dignified or worthy of respect; not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.” 1 Timothy 3:11

Identifying leaders takes time and observation

Look for women worthy of respect

- Is she respected by the other ministry leaders in the church for who she is and how she behaves?
- Is she known as being cooperative and a team player?
- Is she more interested in the goals of the ministry than in her own agenda?
- Is she submissive to authority? Can she follow the proper procedure for dealing with issues by going through the biblical authority structure for the church body?
- Example of Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2)

Look for women who are not malicious gossips

- One who is able to hold her tongue—not sharing sensitive information in inappropriate settings.
- One who uses discernment about sharing information that may sound critical or complaining regarding anything that deals with any ministry of the church.
- One who has the support of her husband, if married.

Look for women who are temperate (sober, awake and aware, well-balanced)

What keeps us balanced?

- **Telling** God our concerns.
- **Listening** to Him while...
- **Reading** what He has already said to us.
- **Trusting** Him while...
- **Waiting** for Him to work through any situation.

Look for women who are faithful in all things

Tertullian, a theologian, who lived during the second century, wrote of the spiritual wealth and worthiness of Christian women. And how their modesty and simplicity was a rebuke to and a reaction from the shameless extravagancies of the immoralities of heathen women. Christian women were the most conspicuous examples of the transforming power of Christianity. This inspired admiration and astonishment from a pagan writer who exclaimed, "What women these Christians have!"

1 Timothy 5:3-16 — Women in Need, Covered by the Church

Three examples of how God provides for women who have financial needs plus lessons for those who are needy. The principles apply to anyone in need, not just widows.

Widow #1 — Ruth 2

Widow #2 — 1 Kings 17:8-16

Widow #3 — 2 Kings 4:1-7

Application for the lesson:

For the giver—

- Give good stuff, usable stuff, the best you have to give. Make it easy for her to get it and use it.
- Be a helper and a friend for the long-term. Most emergency situations last longer than a day.
- Enable her to improve her condition. Help her evaluate her resources and pray for God to multiply them to provide for her.

For the receiver—

- Put your hope in God, not prosperity.
- Rejoice with God and with the giver for His provision.
- Don't be afraid to share out of your meager supplies. Do it in faith that God will help those supplies stretch.

1 Timothy 5 — The Good Deed of Bringing Up Children

*...and is well known for her good deeds, such as **bringing up children**, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord's people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds. (1 Timothy 5:10)*

Widows Who Qualified For "The List"

- They took a pledge to serve Christ and the Church alone rather than being married.
- They were respected as the elders were respected.
- They were overseers over the rest of the women, and
- They had charge of the other widows and orphans supported by the church.

Ministry by Women to Children

If you are in the child-rearing stage...

- Get truth in their minds. Right thinking leads to right behavior.
- Be diligent. Takes effort. And planning. A strategy.
- Tell children why you live for Jesus.
- Make it a habit and priority of reading God's Word or stories that lead to right thinking about God.
- Add verse memorization as part of their daily homework regime.
- Read to them God-honoring books from their earliest years.

If you are out of the child-rearing stage, or have no children...

- Give good resources as gifts to children and their parents.
- Teach children in the many areas available here at Crossroads and make it your personal responsibility to influence them for the Lord.
- Keep good materials on hand in your house so that any child who is under your roof for any reason may be influenced for Christ by your reading to them.

Titus 2:3-5 — Women Mentoring Women

The benefits of God's plan

- Addresses loneliness and weakness of aloneness
- Older women have marketable skills in God's economy
- Women can do it better!

What does God want from the older women?

- To be reverent in the way she lives.
- To be trustworthy in her speech.
- To not be addicted to much wine or anything else that makes her ineffective.
- To be able to teach what is good.

What are the older women to teach the younger women?

Sophronizin = to restore one to her senses; to disciple; to hold one to her duty ; to reprove firmly but kindly, to remind about something forgotten or disregarded.

- To love her husband (Phileo = be fond of, like and appreciate him)
- To love her children
- To be sensible
- To be pure
- To be a keeper at home (*A keeper is one who observes, guards, or preserves something valuable*)
- To be kind
- To be subject to husband.

Application

For older women:

- Make yourself available to younger women.
- Listen.
- Study the Word so you can apply it.
- Take over Christian education tasks.
- Look around and decide to love one of these younger gals.

For younger women:

- Let God know your desire to be mentored.
- Interact with older women; befriend them; listen to them.
- Recognize your need and desire to be teachable. Lev. 19:31-32
- Teach your children gratitude toward grandparents and other elders.