

RÉSUMÉ

Scripture Reading: Read 1 Timothy 3

Many folks who apply for a job are required to submit a résumé to their potential employer. Along with an applicant's name and contact information, most résumés include a list of the person's qualifications/skills, job experience, education, interests, career objectives and references. A good résumé can open the door to get a person a job interview with a company. A poor résumé and a person won't even be considered.

In 1 Timothy 3, Paul spends most of the chapter laying out the qualifications God is looking for in the résumé of church leaders. Interestingly, very little has to do with skills, education, or even previous ministry experience. Overseers in the church (the term is used interchangeably with elders/pastors in Scripture – see Acts 20:17, 28) only needed to be able to teach (1 Tim 3:2). Deacons had to hold on to the deep truths of the faith (1 Tim 3:9). In addition, both overseers and deacons had to have managed their families well (1 Tim 3:4-5, 12).

This doesn't mean, of course, that education, skills, and ministry experience are unimportant. They are all helpful to be sure. In fact, knowledge of Scripture is a prerequisite for being able to teach since it's the truths found in the Word of God that we are to convey. Skills and ministry experience are implied as necessary too when Paul mentions the importance of managing one's family well. In Paul's mind, being a successful husband and parent, as evidenced in a healthy functioning family, indicated the potential leader had developed the necessary skills of leadership, organization, communication, conflict resolution, management, servanthood, teaching, etc. that would be needed in the church. Nonetheless, education, skills and ministry experience on a résumé are insufficient if godly character is missing. It is character that Paul primarily addresses in his list of qualifications for church leadership. Take a look at these qualities for yourself.

OVERSEERS

- *Above reproach*
- *Faithful in marriage*
- *Temperate*
- *Self-controlled*
- *Respectable*
- *Hospitable*
- *Not given to drunkenness*
- *Not violent but gentle*
- *Not quarrelsome*
- *Not a lover of money*
- *Good reputation*

DEACONS

- *Worthy of respect*
- *Sincere*
- *Not indulging in much wine*
- *Not pursuing dishonest gain*
- *No cause for accusation*
- *Faithful in marriage*

What is true with regard to church leadership is to be true for all believers. Character matters to God. You could have the most amazing gifts, talents and anointing but, without character, it's meaningless since God values character over gifting (cf. Matthew 7:21-23). So, is it time to brush up on your résumé?

Action Step & Prayer Focus: Take a long look at your "résumé". What do you see? Are you heavy on skills, job experience and education but light on character? If so, it's time for that to change. Enter the School of the Spirit and let him develop his fruit in you.

Take-a-way: *Leadership has more to do with who you are than what you say or do!*