

## **A Pattern to Follow > 1 Timothy 3:1-7**

**3:1** Paul continues his discussion about Christ's church by noting that a desire to serve the church is a wonderful thing.

**3:2-3** Those who wish to serve as overseers are to have certain things be true about their lives and certain things not be characteristic. Generally, these patterns would apply to all growing Christians, effectively putting overseers in a place to be followed and imitated, rather than on a spiritual pedestal.

**3:4-5** Paul concludes his thoughts by giving three specific areas in which Christ's work needs to be evident in their lives. The first is within their own home.

**3:6** An overseer's pattern in the faith is also of importance.

**3:7** Finally, an overseer's reputation in the community speaks not only to his character, but also serves as an example for how Christians are to act amongst the wider world.

**Context:** Paul's emphasis on the church as a family continues, now by showing what it looks like for certain men to lead the church by humble example.

**Aim:** The family of God is to look quite different from the false teachings noted in chapter 1. Instead, it is to reflect the God-given pattern in how it is structured and operates.

**Gospel:** The list here isn't something that any overseer will be perfect at, but Jesus – instead – is the perfect example, leader, and King whom we look towards.

**Application:** Men, is your life on this trajectory? Ladies: are you encouraging your husband and sons to live this way?

**Here is how I will apply these truths:** \_\_\_\_\_

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