

What leader has had the greatest impact on your life? What qualities did they possess?

What is the greatest leadership challenge you have faced?

Describe the scrutiny that leaders receive?

What leadership positions do you currently hold?

Do you feel overwhelmed by your responsibility as a leader?

1) I should aspire to the nobility of leadership. (v. 1)

Do you feel like you know the pastors, elders, and other leaders at Harvest?

Discuss the responsibility elders have at Harvest for doctrine, direction, and discipline. Do these sound like weighty responsibilities to you? More weighty than yours or not?

Why do you think the scriptures teach that church should be led by a plurality of overseers? (Acts 14:23, Acts 20:28, Titus 1:5, Philippians 1:1)

Discuss this statement: *Shepherds should smell like the sheep.*

Do you aspire to be a leader in the church? If not, why not?

Why do you think the scripture compares church overseers like oxen? (1 Timothy 5:18)

2) I must meet the qualification of leadership. (v. 1-7)

“Above reproach” is an overarching term meaning “unable to stick”. Does your character defend you from accusations like Teflon?

- **He is a one-woman man. (v.2a) *the husband of one wife,***

Describe the sensation you felt when you first realized how attracted you were to your spouse? Describe how you feel about him/her now?

- **He has self-mastery. (v.2b) *sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable,***

In which of the following areas do you show the most self-mastery...and the least? (Sleep, Food, Substance, Fear, Lust)

- **He has a love for strangers (v.2c) *hospitable,***

Are you fearful of those not like you? How have you demonstrated an open heart, open home, and open hands to those you don't know very well?

- **He is able to teach. (v.2d) *able to teach,***

Are you a gifted teacher? Do you have the ability to make complex topics seem simple to others?

Teachers are readers. Are you a reader? What are you reading?

- **He is unhindered by alcohol. (v.3a) *not a drunkard,***

What role does alcohol play in your life?

Has anyone ever told you, “You drink too much”? How did you respond?

- **He is a peacemaker. (v.3b) *not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome,***

Do broken people irritate you? Describe the last broken person who irritated you? Did you withdraw from, attack them, or gently lead them?

- **He understands the purpose of money. (v.3c)** not a lover of money.

What is the purpose of money? How does the love of money obstruct a love for ministry?

How does a qualified overseer of God's money steward money designated for ministry?

- **He is a leader at home. (v.4-5)** He must manage his own household well, with all dignity, keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?

If you aren't making quality disciples at home you likely will not make quality disciples in the church. Are your children becoming disciples of Jesus by following your leadership?

Do you lead times of worship, prayer, and scripture reading at home? Describe what that looks like in your home.

- **He has spiritual maturity. (v.6)** He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil.

How long has it been since the point of your conversion?

Have you been tempted to think that because you are in a position of leadership you are better than or more important than others?

- **He has authenticity with outsiders. (v.7)** Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

What one word would your unchurched friends use to describe you?

Have you sensed an increase in the devil's attack on you when you stepped into a leadership role? Why does he target leaders?

3) I will fuel the joy of leadership. (Hebrew 13:17)

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Describe the joy of leading when others are joyfully following your leadership.

Would your pastors, elders, and leaders describe you as a joy to lead? Why or why not?

Additional Scripture

- 1Peter 5:1-5
- Titus 2:1-10
- Proverbs 11:14
- Proverbs 12:15
- Proverbs 15:22
- Proverbs 19:20
- Proverbs 24:6
- Proverbs 5:1-23
- Proverbs 20:1
- Proverbs 30:1-9