

**Running the Race**  
**“Qualities of Christian leaders”**  
**1 Tim 3:1-13 (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Tim 5:17-25)**

**About elders**

**The calling of an elder**

“Here is a trustworthy saying: whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task” (1 Timothy 3:1)

**The character of an elder**

“Now the overseer is to be above reproach” (1 Timothy 3:2)

**The competency of an elder**

“able to teach” (1 Timothy 3:2)

“He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.” (Titus 1:9)

**About deacons**

**Similar character**

“In the same way, deacons...” (1 Timothy 3:8)

**Spiritual focus**

“They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.” (1 Timothy 3:9)

**About the church**

“Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.” (Hebrews 13:17)

## Running the Race

### “Qualities of Christian leaders” – 1 Tim 3:1-13 (Titus 1:5-9)

#### Digging Deeper questions for small group discussion & personal reflection

##### About elders

What are the different ways people might think of leadership? How might we see Christian leadership as Paul describes it, “a noble task” in shepherding the church?

What are the dangers of overemphasizing the giftings of Christian leaders at the risk of neglecting their character qualities?

Why does Paul make such a close link for leaders between home life and church life? In what way is this applicable for all of us?

Why do you think Paul lists ‘teaching’ as the main gift of an overseer? How is this gift best used to build the church?

What should be the connection between an elder’s teaching & his way of life?

##### About deacons

If a deacon’s role is primarily about a serving practically in assisting the elders, then why does Paul see it necessary that they “must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience” (1 Tim 3:9)?

##### About the church

Although the list of character qualities in these passages relate to the qualifications for elders and deacons, why should all of us be desiring to grow in these areas too?

How can the church make the work of an elder a ‘joy’ rather than a ‘burden’? (see Hebrews 13:17)

What are some important ways that our church can be praying for our elders and deacons?