

Daily Prayer

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

Today's prayer is based on I Timothy 3.1-7, ESV.

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.

Father, help me to see that aspiring to leadership among your people is a noble thing,
Lord, what are you looking for in those you call to leadership?

Therefore an overseer must be above reproach,

Evidently, Father, you want your leaders to have at least some semblance
of your transforming work in their lives to be *visible* -
you want them not only to talk the talk but to walk the walk,

the husband of one wife,

you want fidelity in marriage,

sober-minded,

you want people of substantive thought, not frivolous,

self-controlled,

you want people who exhibit self-control,

respectable,

you want people who meet their community's standards of respectability,

hospitable,

you want people who are observably gracious to others,

able to teach,

you want people who know the faith - and can share it,

not a drunkard,

you want people who do not lose control through their drinking,

not violent but gentle,

you want people who are strong enough to be gentle,

not quarrelsome,

you want people who are not contentious, who can get along,

not a lover of money.

you want people who are secure in your provision, not their money,

He must manage his own household well,

you want people who manage their own affairs well,

with all dignity keeping his children submissive,

you want people whose children respect and obey them,
who accomplish this with dignity -

or if someone does not know how to manage his own household,

how will he care for God's church?

- How indeed? -

*He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit
and fall into the condemnation of the devil.*

you want people who have been in the faith a while,
whose experience has taught them a little humility,
who know the ways of grace well enough to walk in grace.

*Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders,
so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.*

In addition to all this, these people must be well respected
by those *not* part of the church.

Their lives should leave little room for creditable attack.

Father, I notice that this is not a *job* description,
but a *character* assessment.

Please, Father, by your Spirit, raise up such people
to take on the responsibilities of leadership among your people,
for Jesus and His kingdom's sake. Amen.

personalized by ptc

Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds? Lay first the foundation of humility.

Augustine

selected by ptc