

Welcome to Westside Grace Ministries Lesson Plan Two Let's Begin

LESSON TWO TITLED:

THE SHEPHERD UNDER INVESTIGATION: A CSI/FBI EXAMINATION OF PAULINE PASTORAL QUALIFICATIONS PART ONE

An Exegetical Investigation of 1 Timothy 3:1–7 and Titus 1:5–9

LESSON METHODOLOGY DEFINITION:

What Is a Biblical Lesson?

A biblical lesson is a structured process of investigation, explanation, and application designed to build understanding of God's revealed truth through careful examination of Scripture.

Unlike preaching, which calls for a decision and response, teaching builds comprehension through:

1. Examination of biblical evidence.
2. Contextual investigation.
3. Doctrinal clarification.
4. Practical application.
5. Spiritual formation.

The objective of this lesson is not merely to identify qualifications for leadership but to investigate **the character, calling, doctrine, and responsibility required of those who shepherd the people of God.**

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

By the completion of this investigation, the student should be able to:

1. Explain the qualifications Paul gives for overseers and elders.
2. Distinguish biblical character requirements from leadership abilities.
3. Identify the dangers of separating ministry position from personal holiness.
4. Evaluate leadership candidates through biblical evidence rather than personality, popularity, or talent.
5. Understand that pastoral qualification begins with character before competency.

CSI/FBI INVESTIGATIVE FRAMEWORK:

CSI FBI STEP 0: PERICOPE IDENTIFICATION

Scene Boundary Control

Definition of Pericope

A **pericope** is a complete, identifiable unit of Scripture containing a specific thought, event, teaching, or argument that should be interpreted within its literary boundaries.

The biblical scenes under investigation are:

Primary Scene One:

1 Timothy 3:1–7

Subject:

Qualifications of an overseer (*episkopos*)

Primary Scene Two:

Titus 1:5–9

Subject:

Qualifications of elders (*presbyteros*)

PERICOPE INVESTIGATIVE CHECKLIST:

Biblical Location

1 Timothy 3:1–7

Biblical Timeline Placement:

Approximately AD 62–67.

Historical Period:

Paul's later ministry period after his missionary journeys.

Biblical Era:

The Dispensation of the Body of Christ.

Titus 1:5–9

Approximately AD 62–67.

Historical Period:

Paul's continued apostolic ministry after his release from imprisonment.

AUTHOR INVESTIGATION

Primary Author

The Apostle Paul.

Paul identifies himself:

1 Timothy 1:1 (KJV)

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;."

Titus 1:1 (KJV)

"Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;."

AUDIENCE INVESTIGATION

Timothy

Location:

Ephesus.

Role:

Paul's apostolic representative responsible for establishing order and confronting false teaching.

1 Timothy 1:3 (KJV)

"As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,"

Titus

Location:

Crete.

Role:

Paul's trusted coworker responsible for appointing elders and establishing church order.

Titus 1:5 (KJV)

"For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:."

GENRE INVESTIGATION

The letters of 1 Timothy and Titus belong to the category commonly called:

Pastoral Epistles

However, a deeper classification reveals:

- Apostolic instruction.
- Ecclesiastical organization.
- Doctrinal protection.
- Leadership formation.

These letters are not merely administrative manuals.
They reveal God's standard for spiritual stewardship.

CSI FBI STEP 1: EVIDENCE COLLECTION:

What Does the Text Actually Say?

The investigation begins with Scripture before interpretation.

PRIMARY EVIDENCE: 1 TIMOTHY 3:1–7 (KJV)

"This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."

PRIMARY EVIDENCE: TITUS 1:5–9 (KJV)

"For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

CSI FBI STEP 2: CONTEXTUAL INVESTIGATION:

Historical Question:

Why does Paul focus so heavily on character?

Investigation Finding:

Because leadership in the church is not merely a position of influence; it is a stewardship before God.

The biblical pattern is:

Character → Credibility → Competency

Not:

Charisma → Platform → Authority

CASE LAW PRINCIPLE TRACK:

Biblical Principle:

A leader's private life becomes evidence regarding their public responsibility.

Case Evidence:

1 Timothy 3:5 (KJV)

"For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?"

Principle Established:

The home becomes the first courtroom where leadership character is examined.

CSI FBI STEP 3: EVIDENCE CLASSIFICATION:**Evidence Evaluation 3-Level****Level 1 — Explicit Statement**

Paul explicitly requires:

- Blameless character.
- Ability to teach.
- Household leadership.
- Sound doctrine.
- Moral integrity.

Level 2 — Reasonable Implication

Paul implies:

- Leadership requires emotional maturity.
- Reputation affects gospel credibility.
- Spiritual authority cannot be separated from personal holiness.

Level 3 — Assumption/Tradition

Claims requiring caution:

- Assuming every qualification refers to only one modern leadership structure.
- Assuming personality traits replace biblical qualifications.
- Assuming ministry success proves divine approval.

CSI FBI STEP 4: EXEGESIS VS EISEGESIS INVESTIGATION:**Exegesis:**

Drawing meaning from Paul's words within their historical, grammatical, and theological context.

Example:

"Not a novice" means spiritual immaturity creates danger because pride can corrupt leadership.

Eisegesis Warning:

Reading modern leadership expectations into the text.

Examples:

- A large church automatically proves qualification.
- A gifted communicator automatically proves spiritual maturity.
- A successful business background equals biblical leadership readiness.

CSI FBI STEP 5: INITIAL INVESTIGATIVE VERDICT

The evidence demonstrates:

Paul's primary concern is not finding impressive individuals.

Paul is seeking individuals whose lives demonstrate:

- Spiritual maturity.
- Doctrinal stability.
- Moral integrity.
- Servant leadership.
- Faithfulness to Christ.

The shepherd must first be under the authority of the Chief Shepherd.

Next: Lesson Part 2 — CSI FBI Steps 6–10: Detailed Investigation of Each Pastoral Qualification, Cognitive Load Theory Analysis, MSM Miscontextualization Suspect Matrix, and the Character vs Competency Examination.

Closing Declaration – Westside Grace Ministries

Thank you for participating in this CSI/FBI Investigative Lesson. Continue to "rightly divide the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15, KJV) by examining every passage in its context and testing every conclusion against Scripture.

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