



Some churches have a few people who are willing to lead. Those people may end up feeling burdened and alone. Other churches have people who are willing to lead, but not ready. If there are not enough leaders, however, the work of the church will not get done.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read and meditate on [1st Timothy 3:1-16](#). Jot down 1 or 2 new thoughts that seem important. Why are they important?
2. What have your experiences of Christian leadership been like?
3. Consider two categories of qualification—character and ability. How do the qualities mentioned in these verses divide into these two categories?
4. Remembering [verses 5-6](#), what do you think is Paul's reason for insisting that a leader's relationships must work in the spheres of both church and family?
5. How have you seen the principle in [verse 7](#) obeyed or disobeyed?
6. “[Deacon](#)” simply means “servant,” not ruler. In the passage it seems that deacons deal with more practical affairs of church life, rather than with teaching. Given that, why do you think the point about doctrine in [verse 9](#) is made with so much emphasis?
7. What do [verses 14-16](#) tell us about God's purpose in prompting Paul to write this letter? How does this apply to us today?
8. [Verse 16](#) was probably a hymn sung in the church at Ephesus. The word translated as “[mystery](#)” in [verse 9](#) is also rendered “[mystery](#)” here. We can say that the result Paul wanted from good Christian leadership was that these truths would be revealed. Therefore, when people look at our fellowship, what should they see?
9. How can you serve your church through leadership, and/or encourage others who lead?

MOVING FORWARD

Pray for your pastor and church leaders. Ask God to reveal to you, your role in your local Body of Christ and how you can fulfill His calling on your life to be a Christian leader, whether in the local church, your family and/or in your sphere of influence.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

[“¹⁵ But if I should be delayed, I have written so that you will know how people ought to act in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.”](#)

[2nd Timothy 3:15](#)