

# Lesson 6 — A Bishop Then Must Be: Consider His Character

## DEFINITIONS:

- "Gentle"
- "Holy"
- "Self-Controlled"
- "Patient"
- "Gentle"
- "Lover of Good"

## 1 Timothy 3:1-7 & Titus 1:5-9

### **A man who exhibits these traits is manifesting:**

- ❖ The Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).
- ❖ The Christian "Virtues" (2 Peter 1:5-9).
- ❖ The "Beatitudes" (Matt. 5:1-12).

### **Consider His Character**

- ❖ How would you define character?

#### **GENTLE**

- ❖ Phil. 4:5; Titus 3:2; James 3:17; 2 Cor. 10:1
- ❖ How is this trait demonstrated?

#### **JUST**

- ❖ How was this trait seen in the Romans (Acts 25:16, 27)?
- ❖ How is God "just" (1 Pet. 1:17)?
- ❖ For one to be "just" in judgment, he must:
  - Use God's standard (John 5:30; 8:16; 2 Thes. 1:5-6).
  - Hear and consider facts BEFORE making a conclusion (Deut. 13:14; Prov. 18:13, 17; John 7:24, 51).
  - Be guided by a deep concern for the well being of others (Matt. 1:19; Col. 4:1).
  - Free from prejudice and partiality (Acts 10:34-35; 1 Tim. 5:21; James 2:1-9).
- ❖ Questions to ask:
  - Does he come to quick, rash decisions about people and events when he doesn't have all the facts?
  - Is he a fair person, giving people the benefit of the doubt.
  - Does he play favorites, or does he show concern for all people?



## Lesson 6 — A Bishop Then Must Be (His Character)



### **HOLY**

- ❖ Undefined by sin, free from wickedness, pure, of divine character (1 Timothy 2:8; Ephesians 4:24; Hebrews 7:26; 12:14).

### **LOVER OF GOOD**

- ❖ Fond of good, a promoter of virtue, loving goodness (1 Thes. 5:21-22; 1 Cor. 13:1-8; Prov. 8:13; 14:9; Eph. 5:1-17; Phil. 4:8; Col. 3:1,2).

#### **Questions to ask:**

- Does he rejoice in and encourage good things (1 Cor. 13:4-8)?
- Is he a Barnabas (Acts 11:24)?
- Does he look for the good in others?

### ❖ **SELF-CONTROLLED**

- He must be controlled in:

Body (1 Cor. 9:24-27).

Spirit (Prov. 25:28).

Tongue (James 3:2).

#### **Questions to ask:**

- Is he quick to fly off the handle?
- Would you consider him a disciplined man?

***Do we have men among us who possess these godly traits?***