

## **STUDY 4 - Leaders in God's Household (1 Tim 3:1-16)**

*“What a person does in private has little bearing upon their suitability for a public office” – agree or disagree? And why?*

### **Read 1 Timothy 3:1-13**

1. Fill in this chart of qualities that the various people are to have.

<b>Overseers</b>	<b>Deacons</b>	<b>Wives/Deaconesses</b>

- (a) What qualities do they need in common?
  - (b) What differences are there in the qualities they require?
  - (c) Are there any qualities they are to have that aren't necessary for every Christian?
2. What reason is given for making sure that an overseer manages his own family well?
  3. Why should a new convert not be an overseer?

### **Now read verses 14-16**

4. What picture of the church is conveyed in verses 14-15? How does this affect our picture of the overseers and servants?
5. The poetic series of statements in verse 16 might not be how we would normally summarize the gospel. Try to find some Bible references that show how Jesus fulfills each line of the hymn:
  - (a) Manifested in the flesh –
  - (b) Vindicated by the Spirit –
  - (c) Seen by angels –
  - (d) Proclaimed among the nations –
  - (e) Believed on in the world –
  - (f) Taken up in glory –

### **Implications**

- Who are the leaders in your church? How are they chosen? Is it in keeping with God's instructions in 1 Timothy 3?
- Since all the qualities in verses 1-13 (bar the ability to teach) apply to all believers, what are one or two that you can be working on this week?

### **Give thanks and pray**

Thank God for the overseers and servants in your church. Ask God to help them to be blameless, and us to be imitators of their good example.