

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Here are some questions and thoughts to help guide discussion:

1. This Sunday, we began an important discussion about church authority and church leadership. What have been your assumptions about who should have authority in the church? Where do you think these assumptions came from? Were any of those assumptions challenged on Sunday?
2. Matthew 18:17-20 speaks about the authority Jesus has given to His church. (See also 1 Corinthians 5:4-5 and Galatians 1:8). Are there any aspects of your involvement with the church that are impacted by this understanding? In what ways does this understanding help *membership* make more sense to you? (You can read more about Biblical church membership at www.ebcnipawin.ca/why-membership/)
3. The Bible teaches that life is not meant to be lived individually. A common temptation when we hear about congregational authority is to think that each individual in the congregation has authority. What should congregational authority really look like? How can you contribute to the unity of the congregation in its exercise of authority?
4. Our passage today spoke about “overseers,” the church’s spiritual leaders. Do you feel any tension between congregational authority and the authority of the church’s leaders? Have you ever struggled to obey Hebrews 13:17? Why? According to that verse, what do we miss out on when we don’t have an attitude of submission towards our leaders?
5. Sunday’s sermon made the case that “overseer,” “elder” and “pastor” are three overlapping terms used to refer to one leadership position. Take some time to read through Acts 20:17-18 & 28, Titus 1:5-7, and 1 Peter 5:1-3 to review this.
6. What are the benefits of being led by a team of shepherds instead of just one?