

**Title: Born To Lead – 1 Timothy 3**

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**Read:**

<sup>1-7</sup>If anyone wants to provide leadership in the church, good! But there are preconditions: A leader must be well-thought-of, committed to his wife, cool and collected, accessible, and hospitable. He must know what he's talking about, not be over fond of wine, not pushy but gentle, not thin-skinned, not money-hungry. He must handle his own affairs well, attentive to his own children and having their respect. For if someone is unable to handle his own affairs, how can he take care of God's church? He must not be a new believer, lest the position go to his head and the Devil trip him up. Outsiders must think well of him, or else the Devil will figure out a way to lure him into his trap. <sup>8-13</sup>The same goes for those who want to be servants in the church: serious, not deceitful, not too free with the bottle, not in it for what they can get out of it. They must be reverent before the mystery of the faith, not using their position to try to run things. Let them prove themselves first. If they show they can do it, take them on. No exceptions are to be made for women—same qualifications: serious, dependable, not sharp-tongued, not overfond of wine. Servants in the church are to be committed to their spouses, attentive to their own children, and diligent in looking after their own affairs. Those who do this servant work will come to be highly respected, a real credit to this Jesus-faith. <sup>14-16</sup>I hope to visit you soon, but just in case I'm delayed, I'm writing this letter so you'll know how things ought to go in God's household, this God-alive church, bastion of truth. This Christian life is a great mystery, far exceeding our understanding, but some things are clear enough: He appeared in a human body, was proved right by the invisible Spirit, was seen by angels. He was proclaimed among all kinds of peoples, believed in all over the world, taken up into heavenly glory.

**Think:**

So how is your youth leader doing? Is he or she the kind of person that never stuffs up? Do they seem to have it all sorted out? Or maybe you think they are the opposite and they just wind you up. Maybe they are forever on your case, telling you to be quiet and having a go at the simplest of things, just because you're having a laugh. Seems to me, that if you think that your youth leader is either of those things, then you may have missed judged them. Being a leader is not easy. Whether it's the leader of a Church, school, college, family or youth group, leadership is hard, and it's not meant to be. Paul lists the qualities required from a leader in 1 Timothy 3 and they are not easy to reach qualities. Your youth leader probably doesn't get a tick in every box, but then again do you? If you think your youth leader is so Holy that they must have Jesus mobile number, then the truth is, they are probably struggling with something that you don't know about. If you think your youth leader is the pits, then they are probably better than you realise, but how would you know that, if you don't look beyond the leader telling you to be quiet. Maybe this week you should take some time to encourage your youth leader. A card, an email, a text, a high five, can all go a long way to encouraging your youth leader to tick a few more boxes in Pauls list of what a leader should be.

**Pray:**

Father I am sorry for when I judge others and don't look for the good in them. Help me see the good in everyone, and encourage them in their walk with you. Amen.

**Action:**

So can you pick seven leaders in your life and encourage them this week? A youth leader, a sports coach, a parent, or even a teacher could be lifted up by the way you encourage them. Go for it. Bye.