

# Speaking to the soul



## Church leaders

**This is a trustworthy saying: “If someone aspires to be a church leader, he desires an honourable position.” 1 Timothy 3:1**

One of the key tasks for Paul and Timothy was to find good leaders. Without godly and effective leadership, the Church was never going to thrive. In this chapter, Paul spelt out the qualities that a church leader needs, and this list hasn't really changed much over the past 1,900 years. A church leader still needs to have good relationships within their

family. They must be faithful, hospitable, able teachers and gentle. It's interesting that Paul felt the need to say that a leader shouldn't be a heavy drinker, violent, quarrelsome or a lover of money, but no one could disagree with him. Paul also stated that a leader should not be a new Christian, and that people outside the church should speak well of them.

Paul began these comments by speaking of those who aspired to be a church leader, and he wanted to encourage them. They were desiring an honourable position. I believe that is still the case. Ministers of the gospel certainly do not have an easy life and won't always be popular, but to serve God is a wonderful thing to do and it should be actively encouraged. I'm grateful to those who, when I was a teenager, encouraged me to reflect on the possibility of becoming a minister. I was firmly convinced that they were wrong and headed off to study law. However, their kindness and persistence were a crucial part of me eventually becoming a church leader.

We all need to be alert, looking out for those whom God might be calling to church leadership. With our love, encouragement and prayers, we will see a new generation of leaders who will be able to take forward the work of God.

## **QUESTION**

What other qualities do you think might be necessary for a church leader in the 21st century?

## **PRAYER**

Lord God, we thank you for those whom you call to lead your Church. Help us always to be there to love and support them. Amen

*Photo - Co Antrim lighthouse*

