

“*Grave*” means “*honorable*.” It is also translated “*honest*” in Phil. 4:8. It is a quality of deacons (1 Tim. 3:8), aged men (Titus 2:2), as well as the wives of deacons and elders (1 Tim. 3:11). The Greek word is “*semnos*”. It comes from “*sebomai*” which means to “*revere, adore*”. It is translated “*devout*”, “*religious*”, and “*worship*” in other verses in the King James Version. Like the other terms, this one is a trait that all Christians should have or at least be growing toward.

The final phrase is “*faithful in all things*”. It means to be trustworthy in everything. This too is a characteristic of all saints.

The only thing that separates the preacher from other members is his ability to publicly speak. He is not any holier than any other Christian. Although elders children must be faithful to prove the man is qualified, there is no Scripture that refers to the qualities of the preacher’s kids. Neither is there a passage that separates the preacher’s wife.

The point we need to get from this is that there is no lower standard for the “average member”. He or she is not allowed to drink alcohol, dress immodestly, use profanity, and watch pornography because they are not preachers or preacher’s kids.

Our reputation before others is important. Elders *must have a good report* (1 Tim. 3:7). Deacons must *first be proved* (1 Tim. 3:10). Preachers must be faithful stewards for no one will listen to a hypocrite. But any Christian can bring shame and reproach upon the church by their worldly behavior. A young wife can cause the word of God to be *blasphemed* (Titus 2:5). A servant can cause it to be *adorned* (Titus 2:10). Our reputation is important, but more important is the character we consistently display before God. *Walk worthy of the vocation...* (Eph. 4:1).

Mooresville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooresville, IN 46158

December 17, 2017

Assemblies

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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Mooresvillecoc.com

**We only retire
from the Christian
work when we
enter Heaven**

Announcements

Our next meet up study is Dec. 30. You can sign up to teach Acts 5 on the sheet at the rear table. We meet at 2:00 at the library.

We will have a business meeting and ladies’ Bible class at 3:45 today.

Daily Bible Reading Schedules for 2018 are available in the plastic rack on the rear table. You can read through the whole Bible or just the New Testament. Please take one.

Bob has fallen recently. Keep him in your prayers. Agnes is in need of a different car after her accident. If you know someone trying to sell one let someone know.

Didi and Caroline are expecting a new baby in June. Pray for them.

The Hollingsworths are visiting family this weekend.

“The Son of a Preacher Man”

Ron Roberts

When I was in the military the men in my platoon knew I was a Christian and did some preaching. They respected me for that in time and tried not to use profanity in front of me. One of them started to say, “*son of a...*” when I came around the corner. He immediately changed his intended term to... “*preacher man*”. From then on many of the men called me *the son of a preacher man*. My dad was not a preacher. The label was inaccurate, but it was a popular song by Dusty Springfield in 1968. I was not the son of a preacher man but a preacher myself.

When we had children we were concerned that they would be designated as “P. K.’s”, which stands for “*preacher’s kids*”. Certain members would hold them to a different standard if their daddy was a preacher. Other members would allow them to have no identity of their own (like “*the preacher’s wife*”). Some members would even predict that they would ultimately be ruined and worldly because of the strict rules we would bind on them **above and beyond** what was expected of other members’ children.

We made it very clear to them that they were to be good because they were **God’s children** and not ours. We imposed no higher threshold of behavior on them than that which was required of every Christian. On occasion we had to point out how other children were not doing what pleased God and their parents were not being faithful in their duties. We never gave the “members’ kids” a lighter load of responsibility. **Christians are completely dedicated to God**, and there is no higher plane to be achieved because you are a preacher’s child.

From time to time I will hear about a member who has fallen from God’s standard. The person telling me about it may explain in shocking detail, “AND SHE WAS AN ELDER’S WIFE!!!” Does that mean if she was a “regular member” she would not be unfaithful, sinful, reprimanded, or even noticed?

Elders, deacons, and their wives are Christians first, just like the preacher. We cannot expect them to be godly and the rest of the church to be allowed elements of worldliness.

There are aspects of the elders, deacons, and their wives that separate them from others. A Christian man can be young, single, and childless. Elders must be older married men who have faithful children. Deacons must also be married, have children, and have been faithful long enough to have a proven reputation. What about their wives?

1 Timothy 3:11 says, “*Even so, must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.*”

The term “*their wives*” could also be translated “*the women*”. Some believe this verse is addressing the qualification for deaconesses. I do not believe this is an accurate understanding. The placement of the verse is between 8-10 and 12-13 which all speak of the qualifications for the deacons. It seems the insert of verse 11 emphasizes another qualification for deacons (their wives’ character).

I also believe it would be odd to expect deacons wives to live up to a certain standard that elders wives do not have. Thus I conclude that this verse refers to the wives of both officers in the church.

The terms applied to “*their wives*” is not unusual to other Christians except that it implies a level of maturity that a new member might not yet have. The older women in the church are not to be false accusers (Titus 2:3). The same Greek word (*diabolos*) is translated *slanderers* in 1 Timothy 3:11. The word is usually translated “*devil*”. Surely every Christian is not to be dubious like the devil.

The word “sober” is translated “*vigilant*” in verse 2 where it is discussing the qualifications of a bishop. It is also a virtue of aged men in Titus 2:2. The Greek word is “*nephaleos*” and comes from “*nepho*” which means “*to abstain from wine, be discreet*”. In order to behave properly every Christian must stay free from any type of intoxicant which might alter their behavior.