

## No. 17 Ministerial Servants—Desirous of A Fine Work

*Note to the speaker:*

Talk with audience participation and videos. Highlight the practical ways in which ministerial servants assist the elders and serve the congregation. Highlight the importance of self-examination and working hard to live up to the qualifications for appointed men

### REACHING OUT FOR “FINE WORK” IN THE CONGREGATION (2 min.)

We commend you for being spiritual men capable of “fine work” in the congregation (1Ti 3:1)

A person’s spirituality impels him to reach out

Jehovah and his organization want you to reach out for this work

By cultivating spiritual qualities, you are being prepared to care for weightier responsibilities in the congregation

### PRESERVE YOUR SPIRITUAL QUALIFICATIONS (20 min.)

Although you met the Scriptural qualifications at the time of your appointment, you must continue meeting them

We will now review these qualifications along with selected portions of the *Organized* book. Please turn to chapter 6 of the book at this time

[When discussing the following information, refer to additional comments in the *Organized* book, chapter 6, paragraphs 3-6]

#### [Read 1 Timothy 3:8-10, 12]

“Serious” (1Ti 3:8; w90 9/1 26 ¶13)

This means that you do not take responsibility lightly

It includes being dependable and arriving on time to fulfill your duties

You should set the example when it comes to dress, grooming, speech, and attitude (od 51 ¶5)

“Not indulging in a lot of wine” (1Ti 3:8)

Appointed brothers must use discretion when determining whether to drink alcohol and must use good judgment regarding the amount

They should not have a reputation of being heavy drinkers (Pr 23:20; w04 12/1 18-23)

“Clean conscience” (1Ti 3:9; w90 9/1 26 ¶14)

Maintaining a clean conscience is vital if we are to offer our bodies as an acceptable sacrifice to Jehovah (Ro 12:1)

Some appointed men have privately engaged in defiling practices, damaging their conscience and disqualifying themselves

What can help us if we struggle in this area?

Note in the following video what this brother had to do to maintain a clean conscience before Jehovah

<<PLAY VIDEO [1 min. 51 sec.]>>

#### Questions:

1. How does viewing pornography or *anything that stirs up immoral desires* damage our conscience? (2Co 1:12; 4:2; 7:1)
2. How does Galatians 6:7, 8 apply when it comes to immoral entertainment?
3. What can we do to make our resolve like that of the psalmist at Psalm 119:37? (*lv* 104, box)

“Serve as ministers” (1Ti 3:10)

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Ministerial servants are a wholesome influence on the congregation when they regularly participate in field service

The Scriptures require that you “minister in a fine manner” (1Ti 3:13)

Faithfulness in the field ministry is essential for a brother to continue qualifying as a ministerial servant

“Presiding in a fine manner” (1Ti 3:12; w90 9/1 25 ¶7)

When you preside over your family in an exemplary manner, this helps equip you to assist in shepherding the congregation

A man who is unable to help his own family members to progress spiritually may lack “freedom of speech” to help others to do so (1Ti 3:13)

Set the example by having regular Family Worship sessions

**YOUR VALUABLE SERVICE BENEFITS THE CONGREGATION (20 min.)**

Your willingness to take on greater responsibility directly benefits the brothers and sisters in the congregation

Note how this is made clear at **Acts 6:3 [Read]**

The governing body sought out men ‘full of wisdom’ to care for a “necessary matter”

This allowed the older men to care better for the spiritual needs of the congregation

Today, you assist the elders in handling many necessary matters

[When discussing the following information, refer to additional comments in the *Organized* book, chapter 6, paragraphs 7-12]

You make sure literature and magazines are available for the congregation in a timely manner

You keep accurate territory and accounts records

You handle microphones, operate video and sound equipment, and care for the needs on the platform

You maintain the Kingdom Hall

You serve as attendants

You may also be used to handle weightier parts in the Life and Ministry Meeting or to give public discourses in the local congregation

**Questions:**

1. What does it mean to be exemplary? (od 52-53 ¶9)
2. Why is it important for ministerial servants to be “exemplary”?
3. What can capable ministerial servants be allowed to do in congregations that have very few elders? (od 53 ¶10)
4. What other responsibilities may be given to ministerial servants? (od 53-54 ¶12)

While it is good that you are proficient in caring for your assignments, another quality is even more important

Look again at Acts 6:3 to identify that quality

Those certified men were also “full of spirit”

Thus, your primary interest should be in deepening your spirituality and in helping brothers in a spiritual way

Stephen, one of those certified men, was “full of faith and holy spirit,” not necessarily academic knowledge or natural ability (Ac 6:5)

In the next video you will see a brother with much talent and natural ability

But notice what is more valuable

<<PLAY VIDEO [4 min. 48 sec.]>>

**Questions:**

1. What qualities are more valuable than natural abilities? (Mt 5:3; 1Co 4:2)
2. How did the example of Elisha help Ben?
3. What did Ben learn from Brother Bellow that made him even more valuable to the congregation? (Pr 1:2-4)
4. How can the experience of older men help you?

Your faithfulness and spirituality serve as a valuable example to others in the congregation

Being “full of spirit” moves you to take the lead in the field ministry, manifest humility, and willingly give of yourself in other areas

Paul ‘slaved for the Lord’ with “lowliness of mind” (Ac 20:19, ftn.)

Rendering your valuable service as a spiritual man provides an example worthy of imitation

Without question, ministerial servants render a valuable service that benefits the congregation

**CONTINUE MAKING YOUR ADVANCEMENT PLAINLY SEEN (2 min.)**

Regardless of our responsibilities, each of us should be concerned with the admonition given at

**1 Timothy 4:15b [Read]**

Self-examination will help us determine to what degree we are making advancement

Though your work differs from that of the elders, it is valued sacred service to Jehovah and the congregation

Be assured of Jehovah’s blessing and appreciation for your important contribution

[Introduce the next part on the program]