

Sunday Follow-Along Handout

Series: Dangerous Church

Sermon Title: Dangerous Leadership

Text: 1 Timothy 3:1-16

Big Idea

God's mission is at the centre of the church, and Jesus' cosmic victory is the foundation of our faith. Leadership exists not for personal ambition but to steward God's mission. Faithful leaders make the church dangerous in the right way—pushing back the darkness and advancing the gospel.

Sermon Notes + Reflection

Key Question

What kind of leaders help the church become dangerous to the kingdom of darkness rather than dangerous in the wrong way?

The Context

- Before leadership instructions (2:4–7): God desires all people to be saved.
- After leadership instructions (3:16): Christ's cosmic victory is declared.
- In between (3:1–15): Leadership is given to ensure God's mission moves forward.

Three Dangers in Leadership

1. **Priority Danger (vv. 1–2)**
 - Leadership is stewardship of God's mission, not advancement of personal goals.
 - Overseeing the church means guarding gospel priorities, not chasing distractions.
 - Exodus 18; 2 Timothy 2:2
2. **Ambition Danger (vv. 2–5)**
 - Overseers must be above reproach, hospitable, gentle, not lovers of money.
 - Leadership is not about hierarchy or control—it's about servant-hearted stewardship.
 - The only status in the kingdom is the status of a servant.
 - 1 Corinthians 4:1–2; Matthew 20:25–28
3. **Spiritual Danger (vv. 6–7)**
 - New or proud leaders are vulnerable to the devil's condemnation and snares.
 - Leadership is stepping onto the frontlines of spiritual warfare.
 - Leaders need prayer, encouragement, and accountability.

Reflection Questions

- How am I supporting and praying for the leaders God has placed over me?
- What areas of **priority**, **ambition**, or **spiritual danger** am I most vulnerable to?
- In what ways can I model servant-hearted leadership in my home, work, or ministry?