

## The Real Deal

1Timothy 3 / Titus 1

Star was one of a kind. He oozed confidence and an attraction that drew people in. Star, I still don't know if that was his given name, was engagingly comfortable in his own skin at a time when skin color often created division.

Star McClendon had the voice of a professional. He had a natural knack that drew others into singing with him whether they could carry a tune or not. The dynamics of our "college life" meetings and campus retreats were electric and alluring even to the most reserved.

I will never forget one particular fall weekend in Central Ohio when we had about 200 students on one of those retreats. There was Star at the 10:00 break, sitting on the hearth of this gigantic fireplace with his guitar and

15-20 guys and gals singing and playing along with him. Well, at least singing. The playing was not quite together. The sounds from Star's guitar were perfect. But as others tried to follow him, that was a different story. For some reason when his admirers tried to use the same finger positions on their strings, it sounded nothing like the notes resonating from Star's. You could tell by the smile on Star's face, he was loving every minute of it.

A short time later, Star shared with me his little secret. He could not play a single chord on his guitar. In the back was a small door that enabled him to slip in a small recorder with a sound track of selected songs he planned to sing. Now I understood why he never took requests.

Star's little secret is a vivid reminder that things are seldom as they appear. There are a number of words we can use to define this "secret" we *all* experience. They all seem harsh, but they are real. Words like *misled*, *deceived*, perhaps *manipulated*, or *distorted*, *taken*, *betrayed*. Then there is the more contemporary term often heard—"I was *hosed*."

When you get to the bottom line, there is really no nice way of saying that we all mislead or are misled. Even in an attempt to find a word that softens the reality of our own lives and experiences. There is an element of hiding the sharp reality of deception.

How many **really** know you? What is it that we "hide" for fear of rejection? What do we "project" for acceptance? What do we "hold back" or "restrain" for fear of making a fool of ourselves or risking misinterpretation? How authentic can our relationships truly be given the *deception* we all face?

By God's grace, He has provided the power and means to "BE" authentic, the "Real Deal." It is a growth process well worth the effort, and it can be life changing, not only for each of us but for those who observe us in a world of deception. It is a provision of God never intended to be an option for those who belong to Him.

## LIFE RESPONSE:

1. This week **MEMORIZE** and **MEDITATE** on John 10:14, *“I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me”*

This passage opens a reservoir of penetrating questions that strike at the heart of relationships. Set aside a special time when you can identify those questions as they relate to you, Christ, and others.

- i.e. What does God truly know about me?  
What do I know about Him?  
What difference does it make?  
What does my mate know about me? etc.
2. Focus on each of the twenty marks of authenticity, the real deal.  
How would you rate yourself on each?  
Which of the twenty do you find to be most difficult and why?  
How do you “cover,” “mislead,” or *deceive* others in being open and authentic?
3. How does authenticity (transparency, openness, etc.) affect relationships? What does God expect in each of us regarding authenticity?
4. What steps will you take toward building authenticity into your personal life and toward those closest to you?

### THE REAL DEAL

Twenty Marks of Authenticity  
1 Timothy 3 / Titus 1

*“Everything rises and falls with leadership, whether it be a family or a local church.”*  
Dr. Warren W Wiersbe

Challenge is to restore biblical authenticity to the church  
. Begins with leadership – Elders  
. . Permeates the life of every member  
. . . Is revealed through the community

### Must go back to the original standard and purpose.

Genesis 1:26-28 – To reflect His image

Ephesians 5:1 – To imitate God

### THE PREREQUISITE

1 Timothy 3:1

“It is a trustworthy statement:”

Aspires = To reach out, pursue  
To stretch out to grasp  
To have as a goal or purpose  
- **An Action**

Desire = An impulse toward  
A passion, affection for  
- **A Feeling**

**IS IT OPTIONAL**

**IS IT PERSONAL**

## **Transcends Elder Qualifications**

The equipping objective for every believer

Eph. 4:11-13 “to the mature, full measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”

- . . . For every husband
- . . . For every marriage
- . . . For every family
- . . . For every profession
- . . . For parenting
- . . . For selection of every date, mate

### **1. “ABOVE REPROACH”**

1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 2:7; 1 Peter 5:2-3; Phil. 3:17; 2 Thess. 3:9; Heb. 13:7

Blameless.

No grounds for accusing one of improper behavior.

To exemplify excellence.

### **2. “HUSBAND OF ONE WIFE”**

1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6

Meaning transcends marital status.

Issue of moral, sexual excellence “one woman man” – fidelity.

To set a standard of moral excellence.

### **3. TEMPERATE**

1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8; 2 Tim. 4:5-8

Not given to emotions – squeaky wheels.

Self Control – not in bondage to himself or desires.

Anything that dominates, controls.

To respond in excellence.

### **4. PRUDENT**

1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8; 1 Tim. 2:8-9; 1 Tim. 3:11

Quality of character.

A well ordered life.

Thoughtful as to what we reflect/reveal – physical, emotional.

To make choices of excellence.

### **5. RESPECTABLE**

1 Timothy 3:2

To demonstrate good/appropriate behavior.

Perfectly ordered by God.

To establish an image of excellence.

### **6. HOSPITABLE**

1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8

To love strangers.

To initiate relational excellence.

### **7. ABLE TO TEACH**

1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9

Not limited to gifted but equipped – ability to communicate truth of God to others.  
To exhort in sound doctrine in a non-argumentative way.  
To teach excellence.

### **8. NOT ADDICTED TO WINE**

1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7

Does not frequent scenes associated with drinking.  
Above reproach.  
To establish habits of excellence.

### **9. NOT PUGNACIOUS**

1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7

Be gentle.  
Not a striker, not violent, reactor, hot tempered.  
Responds to situations calmly, coolly, gently.  
To “demonstrate” a spirit of excellence.

### **10. UNCONTENTIOUS**

1 Timothy 3:3

Not one who quarrels or is argumentative.  
To listen, think together, work toward resolution.  
To resolve with excellence.

### **11. FREE FROM THE LOVE OF MONEY**

1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:2

Not “free from money” – but the love of money.  
To be stewards of excellence.

### **12. MANAGES HIS OWN HOUSEHOLD WELL**

1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:6

Must have the respect of his family.  
“Respect” . . . has in order.  
Well arranges.  
Recognized/respected as a leader.  
To establish model homes with excellence