# Future Church 3: A community of more aspirational people 1 Timothy 3

## The church in the future will not be the same!

# God’s people are the church of the living God

## They belong to God’s family

## They’re called into God’s culture

### Different values, goals and truths

## They’re grounded and held up by God’s truth

# God wants you to know how to behave

## The content of this letter is not religious activity, but common values

### The oil of love for community living

# God wants you to have Christian aspirations

## Aspiring to grow up

### In your relationship with God

### In your attitudes and values

### Seeing the world and other people through God’s eyes

### To become all that you can be in Christ

## Aspiring to leadership

# God wants the church to be led well

## With servant leaders

### There’s no job description for elders or deacons

### Leaders do what it takes to build the kingdom of God in us and in His world for the glory of Christ

## Modern leadership understanding

### Leaders have a vision

#### Of what they want to produce

#### Of what they want to become

### Leaders move towards that vision

# Leaders in God’s business need character

## Common trait

### Above reproach (common list)

#### If you aspire to leadership then all of these have to grow in you

## Deacons

### Dealing mainly with practical matters

#### Above reproach…

#### Sincere & Tested

## Elders

### Responsible for the vision, mission and direction of the church

#### Above reproach…

#### Self controlled, Hospitable, Able to teach, Not violent, Not quarrelsome, Not a lover of money, Not a recent convert & Has a good reputation with outsiders

# God’s leadership in the church

## It’s not with structures, but spiritual relationships

### It’s more to do with people with the right character in the right places serving for the right reasons and moving towards God’s picture of the church as He intended

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# Homegroup/Private Study Questions

# Aspirations

## What aspirations do you have for yourself, your family and your church?

## Why is it good to have aspirations?

### How do aspirations change how we think and behave at home or at work or in church?

### What happens when we don’t have aspirations?

# Church leadership

## Since the call is to servant leadership should people put themselves forward for it or should they wait to be asked?

### Does desiring the ‘office’ disqualify a person as power-hungry?

## How do you think v16 (about Christ’s godliness) impinges on the rest of the chapter (about church leadership)?

### Of the 6 lines (appeared, vindicated, seen, preached, believed, taken) which do you think is the most relevant for the church leader? Explain your answer

## ‘The most important attribute for a leader is character’

### How far do you agree with this? What else is important?