

Qualifications of Elders (2)

1 Timothy 3; Titus 1

Introduction:

1. In religion there are several areas of disagreement. The same is true when it comes to the qualifications of elders. Some believe there will never be men qualified to serve in the office. When it comes to the qualifications we must understand that the requirements are more in line of "What is the intent, what is the reason?", for the qualifications.
 2. The only perfect shepherd was mentioned in the 23rd Psalm. And then there was the apostle Peter (1 Peter 5:1)
 3. Ultimately the church will have to decide who is qualified based on the scriptures. Let us not make it impossible for men to qualify when the Bible does not make it impossible.
 4. We've seen these qualifications in light of areas/subjects: age, maturity and family management. This lesson focuses on **temperament** and **moral purity**.
- I. Elements of temperament
 - A. Self-control ("temperate" 1 Tim 3:2 - same requirement is for wives, vs. 11; same for older men, Titus 2:2)
 1. Not given to extremes
 2. Acts with deliberation and control, rather than impulsively.
 3. Financially undisciplined, engages in questionable entertainment practices, speaks recklessly...is not self-controlled.
 - B. Sober-minded ("prudent, serious, earnest" 1 Tim. 3:2)
 1. Clearly focused on his task. Ability to make decisions based on rational versus on emotions.
 2. Must be able to discern arguments, identify the motives of the unscrupulous.
 3. Must have foresight to foresee the implications of his decisions.
 4. Must have resolve when criticized and not allow his emotions to get the best of him.
 5. A man who is reactionary rather than prudent is not suited for the job.
 - C. Not pugnacious ("violent," "brawler," "quarrelsome," "bully" 1 Tim. 3:3)
 1. All these words mean that an elder is calm, cool and collected. Not easily provoked - many temptations to anger and defensiveness.
 2. Someone who is a bully or has the attitude of "my way or the highway" is not qualified.
 3. Yet, an elder must have the mettle rebuke evil.
 - D. Not self-willed (Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:3)
 1. An elder must be careful to lead the flock and not drive them forcefully. An elder must be careful not to impose his opinions on the church. When he advises it should be done with a gentle and loving spirit. Elders with fellow elders should always keep in mind that their duty as a Christian is to submit to one another.
 - II. Moral purity
 - A. Lover of what is good (Titus 1:8; opposite of those in 2 Tim. 3:3)
 1. Has a genuine desire to live purely and decently.
 2. Does not privately engage in questionable activities that would undermine his respect if others knew of his behavior. Truly seeks things that are beneficial, godly and of impeccable reputation.
 - B. Not addicted to wine (1 Tim. 3:3)
 1. An elder needs all of his mental, emotional and spiritual faculties in optimum working order. Therefore, he cannot afford to dull his senses with any type of fermented drinks or recreational drugs.
 2. "I can drink and not get drunk." Not true, if senses become dull to any degree that person is drunk.
 3. Elder's reputation must not be tarnished, it must be intact.
 - C. Not greedy (free of the love of money - (Tim. 3:3)
 1. Must not be caught up in questionable money practices/dealings. Must not cheat on taxes, must not cheat others.

2. Must not live beyond his means and neglects his family and the church due to having to work too much.

Conclusion:

1. Acts 20:35 - It is more blessed to give than to receive (in reference to helping the weak - advice Paul gave the Ephesian elders.)
2. Plan of salvation