

## Qualifications of Elders (III)

- Num.11:16, Israel – elders are among oldest officers
- Ruth – elders gave guidance, upheld law, even in period of Judges
- 1 K.12: king – one man rule rejects elders
- Elders later presided over synagogues
- Sparta: Gerousia [board of the elder men]
- Rome: parliament was called *senate*, from *senex*

## 1 Tim.3 / Tit.1

- Paul had won converts in Ephesus and Crete
- He left Timothy in Ephesus . . . Titus in Crete . . . to appoint elders
  - Shows importance of elders to the church
- God had specific kind of men in mind. We must take qualifications seriously
- No qualification requires spiritual gifts
- Many require hard work
- All require preparation

## 10. Not given to wine, 1 Tim.3:3

- Not quarrelsome (over wine): ASV ftnt.; drunkard, ESV; addicted to wine, NASV; NKJV ftnt
- Tarrying at wine, given to wine – Vine
- What happens by wine (revelry, songs, drunkenness, disorder, sin)
- Double meaning: *tarry at wine* until effects set in: leads to *brawling*
- Gn.9:20-27 . . . 1 Sm.25, activates character flaws

## 10. Not given to wine, 1 Tim.3:3

- Some think forbidding an extreme allows degrees leading up to the extreme
  - “Do not murder” ... May we beat someone almost to death? Mt.5:23, anger? raca?
  - What about Timothy? 1 Tim.5:23 – wine
    - Required apostolic command
    - He was not already drinking wine
    - Limited to a little
    - For his health
- 1 Pt.4:3, drinking party; 7, drink no wine . . .

## 11. Not violent, 1 Tim.3:3

- Pugnacious, NASV; bully, CSB; striker
- Tarrying at wine probably has secondary sense, of the effects of wine-bibbing, viz., abusive brawling – Vine
- Bully; quick-tempered man with chip on shoulder, quarrelsome [evil for evil]
- Ac.23:1-2, Ananias. Try to avoid these
- Ct. Ja.1:19
- 1 Pt.2:22-23... Lord was not violent . . .

## 12. Not greedy for money, 1 Tim.3:3; Tit.1:7

- Omitted in ASV et al
- Fond of dishonest gain – Vine
- ‘Cretans stick to money like bees to honey’  
– Plutarch
  - Judas, Jn.12:6
  - Rich young ruler...
  - 1 Tim.6:6-10, love of money...
- Some elders were paid, 1 Tim.5:17-18;  
1 Pt.5:2
- Ac.11:30, elders controlled money...

## 13. Gentle, 1 Tim.3:3

- Gentle, kind – Vine
- Tit.3:2
- Ph.4:5, Let your gentleness be known to all
- Ja.3:17, wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle...
- 1 Co.6:7, an utter failure... (going to law against a Christian is opposite of *gentle*)
- Not a pushover – Gn.13:8-9



## 14. Not quarrelsome, 1 Tim.3:3

- Contentious, ASV; peaceable, NASV
- Not disposed to fight, not quarrelsome over opinions and for self-interest – Vine
- Not ‘trigger happy’
- Ja.3:16, For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there
- 2 Co.10:3-5, spiritual, not carnal
- But he cannot avoid defense of truth.  
Ph.1:7

## 15. Not covetous, 1 Tim.3:3

- No lover of money, ASV; ESV; NASB; not greedy, CSB
- Not money-loving – Vine. 1 T.6:10. Hb.13:5
- Different manifestations. Some ...
  1. think Lord's money is theirs...
  2. more concerned about saving money...
  3. so involved in business or money-making schemes that they neglect the flock
  4. are obsessed with money; Col.3:5, covetousness is idolatry. Ex.18:...21

## 16. Rules his own house well, 1 Tim.3:4-5

- Stand before, lead, superintend – Vine
  1. He rules
  2. He rules consistently (leads; practices what he preaches...) 1 Pt.5:2-3
  3. He rules well. Takes it seriously
- Own house... Same qualities needed for training family as for congregation. V.5; 5:17
  - Lk.16:10

## 16. Rules his own house well, 1 Tim.3:4-5

- Having children in subjection... Submissive to him – Vine
- With all gravity – maintains proper dignity; doesn't lose control – Vine
- Having faithful children... Tit.1:6. 2 Tim.2:2
- Not accused of riot or unruly, Tit.1:6
  1. dissipation. Lk.15:13 – Vine
  2. insubordinate, undisciplined, disobedient, rebellious – Vine

## 17. Not a novice, 1 Tim.3:6

- Newly converted. Lit., newly-planted – Vine
- Newer convert: exact opposite of idea conveyed by ‘elder’
- Hb.5:12-14, takes time to handle meat ... and people
- Danger: pride, puffed up, conceited ... leading to condemnation of devil [same judgment that satan faces]
- Just as important as physical age is mental / spiritual age

## 18. Good report of those without, 1 Tim.3:7

- Witness, evidence, testimony – Vine. Even non-Christians must consider him a good man (outsiders whose opinion is worth considering)
  1. Strength of congregation depends in large part on leaders
  2. Neighbors, business associates, friends. Cornelius, Ac.10:22
  3. Tit.1:13, don't let this happen to you!
  4. 1 Th.4:12, walk properly... [becomingly]