

## Who Is Fit to Lead the Church?

### Word of the Day: Elder (s)

- Acts 14:23 they had appointed elders in every church
- Ephesians 4:11 says some of the gifts given from the Holy Spirit were Pastors and Teachers.
- Acts 20:28
- The word Elder, Overseer, and Bishop are terms that can be used interchangeably.
- Some of the responsibilities of Elders include, to rule (1 Tim. 5:17), preach and teach (1 Tim. 5:17), pray for the sick (James 5:14), care for the church (1 Peter 5:1-2), be an example, and ordain other leaders (1 Tim. 4:14)
- Aspires means to stretch oneself or reach out one's hand for.
- 1 Peter 2:25 says that elders are overseers of your soul.
- Hebrews 13:17 says elders will give an account for your souls
- An elder must rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to complete the work assigned to him. (Colossians 1:28-29)
- Are churches willing to go with the wisdom of God in His design for His church or will they cave to the leadership models of the world?
- Above reproach is the idea that in all the areas of one's life no accusations would stick.

### 1) An Elder should be the Husband of one Wife

- The husband of one wife is translated as a "one woman man"
- Some say single men cannot be elders but that contradicts passages that some are to remain single (Matt. 19:10-11 and 1 Cor. 7:7-9)
- Some say that it was when the man who is being evaluated for eldership is the one who was unfaithful then he is disqualified which many believe is appropriate.
- Ephesians 5:25 should love his wife like Christ loved the church.
- Exodus 20:14 and 17 you should not commit adultery and should not covet your neighbor's wife.
- Proverbs 6:32-33 says adultery is a sin that always stays with you.
- If this happened before he became a Christian than he is now a new Creation (2 Cor. 5:17)
- Each man must be evaluated on an individual basis.

### 2) An Elder should be Sober Minded, Self- Controlled, and Respectable

- This person must be able to supervise themselves.
- How can I rule over others when I cannot rule over myself?
- Being self-controlled is both physical and mental

### 3) An Elder should be Hospitable

#### Romans 12:13

- Means a love for strangers
- See also 1 Peter 4:9

### 4) An Elder should be able to Teach

#### James 3:1

- (1 Tim. 4:6,11,13,16; 2 Tim. 2:15, 24; Titus 2:1)
- It's the ability to teach the truths of God's word which is a gift given by the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 20:27 Paul did not shrink back from teaching the whole counsel of God.

### 5) An Elder cannot be a Drunkard

- 1 Corinthians 6:12 says we should not be controlled by anything.

### 6) An Elder should not be Violent but instead Gentle.

- Galatians 5:22-23 list gentleness as a fruit of the Spirit.

### 7) An Elder should not be Quarrelsome

#### Proverbs 20:3

- The False teachers were known for being quarrelsome (1 Tim. 1:5; 6:4-5)

### 8) An Elder should not be a lover of Money

#### 1 Timothy 6:9-10

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## 9) An Elder should Manage his own household well

*Ephesians 6:4*

- Part of being an elder is the care of others and if the man does not show care for his own family, then he will not care for the church family.
- Manage: being devoted to, supervising, protecting, keeping things in order.

## 10) An Elder cannot be a recent Convert

- This responsibility should be pursued only by those who are humble enough to seek it only because they believe that God is calling them to do so.
- Puffed up: They are impressed by their own knowledge

## 11) An Elder should be well thought of by Outsiders

- The devil knows that if he can get the elder to sin then he can hurt the mission of the church to reach outsiders for Christ.

### Closing

- Hebrews 13:7
- Elders should live lives worth imitating.
- 1 Timothy 5:22 warns about not just laying on hands of anyone and ordaining them as an elder.
- It is easy to allow the worlds methods and ways to become our standard but God has set a standard for His church to follow.
- All of us as followers of Christ should strive for all of these things but for leadership in Gods church they are a must.

### Devotions 1 Timothy 3:1-7

1. What are the qualifications for being an Elder in the church?
2. Why do you think God set high qualifications for eldership?
3. There is only one ability listed (teaching). Why do some churches focus more on abilities rather than the character of the Elder?
4. What happens to our testimony to our community when an Elder has a character flaw that becomes public?
5. Why should every Christian strive for these qualifications even if they are not going to be an elder?

### Resources

- Leadership and Emotional Sabotage by Joe Rigney
- The Message of 1 Timothy and Titus, John R.W. Stott,
- 1-2 Timothy and Titus, Philip Towner, Pg. 82)
- The Pastoral Epistles, Donald Guthrie
- Christ Centered Exposition, 1-2 Timothy and Titus,
- The Letters to Timothy and Titus, Robert W. Yarborough, Pg. 199-200)

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*John 15:5*

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