

# The Qualifications of an Elder

## 1 Tim. 3:1-7

- Blameless (a genuine believer with no unconfessed sin)
- One wife (a solid monogamous marriage, content with his wife)
- Temperate (self-controlled)
- Sober-minded (having a clear mind)
- Good behavior (marked by godly conduct)
- Hospitable (makes people feel welcome, having an open home)
- Able to teach (can effectively teach the Word)
- Not given to wine (not controlled by any substance, filled with the Spirit)
- Not violent (able to deal Scripturally with his anger and frustration)
- Not greedy for money (seeks 1<sup>st</sup> the kingdom, not materialistic, not consumed by career)
- Gentle (meek, draws strength from God)
- Not quarrelsome (a peacemaker)
- Not covetous (content in the Lord)
- Rules his house well (good leadership in the home)
- Children in submission with all reverence (good fruit in the lives of his kids)
- Not a novice (not a new believer)
- Good testimony with outsiders (fruitful interaction with unbelievers)

## Titus 1:5-9

- Duplicates from above: Blameless, one wife, faithful children, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, hospitable, sober-minded
- Not self-willed (submissive to God's will)
- Not quick-tempered (keeps his cool)
- A lover of what is good (earnestly desires good things in his life & surroundings)
- Just (stands up for what is right and fair)
- Holy (Godly in thought and deed)
- Self-controlled (says "no" to the flesh)
- Holding fast the faithful word (an unwavering belief in God's Word)
- Able to exhort (encourages others with God's Word)
- Able to convict (corrects those who oppose God's Word; holds his ground)

## Bottom line:

- Christian maturity
- Christian leadership demonstrated in the home
- The ability to communicate God's truth to others

# The Qualifications of an Elder's Wife

1 Tim. 3:11 (describes the wife of a deacon, which also applies to the wife of an elder)

- Reverent (deep respect for God; an awareness of God's holy presence)
- Not slanderers (not given to gossip; speaks well of people)
- Temperate (self-controlled)
- Faithful in all things (responsible; serves unto the Lord; God-focused)

Titus 2:3-5 (guidelines for "older women"... marks of maturity that are needed in an elder's wife)

- Duplicates from above: Reverent, not slanderers
- Not given to much wine (not controlled by any substance, filled with the Spirit)
- Teachers of good things (teaches others about the Lord & how to walk in His ways)
- Love for husband (demonstrates love for her husband)
- Love for children (demonstrates love for her children)
- Discreet (discernment and good judgment in conduct and speech)
- Chaste (pure in thought and action)
- Homemakers (effectively manages her household)
- Good (godly in thought and deed)
- Obedient to husband (submits to her husband's lead; respects her husband)

Bottom line:

- Christian maturity
- Christian service demonstrated in the home

## Some Key Principles of Eldership

- 1 Pet. 5:1-4 ¶ The elders who are among you I exhort,  
I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ,  
and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:
- 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers,  
not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;
- 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;
- 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears,  
you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

### Principles:

- As a shepherd, an elder is called to help lead, feed, protect & serve the flock
- An elder needs to serve out of humility & genuine concern
- An elder needs to recognize that the sheep belong to the Lord
- An elder is called to be an ongoing example to the flock
- An elder will be rewarded by the Lord for faithful service

# Practical Tasks of an Elder

## Love the sheep

- Encourage the sheep (face-to-face, cards, emails, etc.)
- Pray for the sheep

## Feed the sheep

- Teach (home fellowship group, pulpit supply, etc.)

## Lead the sheep

- Via personal example
- Via the teaching of the Word
- Via leadership meetings & prayer

## Discipline wayward sheep

- With wisdom
- With humility
- With the Word
- With the unity of the leadership team (if at all possible)

## Maintain a solid example

- Personal integrity
- Strong marriage & family

## Draw from the Lord

- Continue to cultivate a strong devotional life
- Remain humble/teachable
- Get up again after stumbling
- We need daily grace