



## A LOOK AT CHURCH LEADERS (PART 1): QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS

1 Timothy 3:2-7; Titus 1:5-9

Sunday, July 18, 2021  
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Good morning church! In the past, this church had a plurality of spiritual leaders known as Elders and Deacons. These are two ongoing offices in the life of the church: a lead office, called variously pastor (or shepherd, elder and overseer) along with an assisting office, called deacon. This calling is of God's choosing, not of any organization's hiring. Today and next week, I would like to look at scripture that identifies these specific men as qualified stewards in ministry leadership. Paul shares with Timothy the structure of the church and more directly, the personal qualities of those in who would serve in these leadership positions, rather than their leadership duties.

"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you." **Hebrews 13:17**

### **1 Timothy 3:2-7**

*"Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, **3** not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. **4** He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, **5** for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? **6** He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. **7** Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil."*

### **Titus 1:5-9**

*"This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— **6** if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. **7** For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, **8** but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. **9** He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it."*

## The Qualities of a Pastor...

1. **OVERSEER as Elder** — a person charged with the general care of the church
2. **Above REPROACH** — blameless
3. **One-WOMAN Man** — sexually pure
4. **Not GREEDY, but SOBER-Minded & SELF-Controlled** — sensible, disciplined & temperate
5. **HOSPITABLE, GENTLE, & Not a DRUNKARD** — sharing their lives with good reputation
6. **Able to TEACH** — displaying integrity, dignity, and sound speech of God's Word  
*"The Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness" 2 Timothy 2:24-25*  
*"Faithful pastors in faithful churches have authority only to the degree that they faithfully teach the apostles' word, which is the very word of God." David Mathis*
7. **CARES for His Own HOUSE** — home life & personal life is well-managed as exemplary
8. **CARES for the CHURCH** — shepherding with loving care and prayer  
*"Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock." 1 Peter 5:2-3*
9. **Not to be a RECENT Convert** — a mature Christian who gives confidence & humility
10. **A GOOD Reputation in the COMMUNITY** — making a spiritual impact on the lost