

## What is Biblical Church Government? Lesson 7 – Qualified Leadership – Part 2

### Introduction:

- The New Testament gives numerous qualifications that men are \_\_\_\_\_ to meet in order for them to serve as elders in the church.

### 1. The qualities required of an elder must be clearly \_\_\_\_\_ in his life

**1 Tim 3.1–7** *The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 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.*

- When a church takes these requirements \_\_\_\_\_, it will choose godly leaders who will be able to lead the church with integrity, humility, and wisdom, and the church will be greatly \_\_\_\_\_ and used by the Lord!
- Here are twenty-one of the qualifications given in the New Testament, followed by a brief description of what they mean.
  - Above reproach – He must demonstrate a clear pattern of godly \_\_\_\_\_ in all things, and cannot be accused of having bad character.
  - Husband of one wife – He must demonstrate a commitment to being completely \_\_\_\_\_ and loyal to his wife.

- **Sober-minded** – He must demonstrate clear \_\_\_\_\_ and wise caution.
- **Self-controlled** – He must demonstrate that he is reasonable and makes good \_\_\_\_\_; not foolish, impulsive, irresponsible, or unstable.
- **Respectable** – He must demonstrate that he is decent and appropriate in his \_\_\_\_\_ toward others and in his personal habits.
- **Hospitable** – Since this Greek word means to be “a lover of strangers,” he must be willing to \_\_\_\_\_ others and greet them lovingly.
- **Able to teach** – He must demonstrate the ability and willingness to \_\_\_\_\_ the truth of Scripture, and \_\_\_\_\_ it from error.
- **Not a drunkard** – He must demonstrate that he is not \_\_\_\_\_ to alcohol or drugs.
- **Not self-willed** – He must demonstrate that he is not overbearing, \_\_\_\_\_, or self-pleasing.
- **Not quick-tempered** – He must demonstrate that he keeps his \_\_\_\_\_ under control.
- **Not violent** – He must demonstrate that he is not quick to express his anger with \_\_\_\_\_ .
- **Not quarrelsome** – He must demonstrate that he is not someone who is easily engaged in an \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Gentle** – He must demonstrate that he is \_\_\_\_\_ and reasonable.
- **Not a lover of money**– He must demonstrate that he is not someone who has an unhealthy \_\_\_\_\_ for more money.
- **Manage his own household well** – He must demonstrate that he \_\_\_\_\_ his own family well, and keeps it under control with dignity.
- **Well thought of by outsiders** – He must demonstrate that he is someone who has a good \_\_\_\_\_ of integrity, even among unbelievers.
- **A lover of good** - He must demonstrate that he \_\_\_\_\_ things that please the Lord.

- Upright – He must demonstrate that he can be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in his decisions.
- Holy – He must demonstrate that he is \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord in every area of his life.
- Not a recent convert – He must demonstrate a pattern of spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord, which can only be gained through experiencing trials and temptations.
- Disciplined – He must demonstrate \_\_\_\_\_.
- No provision is made for \_\_\_\_\_ to serve as elders.
  - Male leadership in the church is based on the order in which God \_\_\_\_\_ man and woman.

***1 Tim 2.11–14** Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. 12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve; 14 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.*

- Male leadership in the church is also based on the order in which they were \_\_\_\_\_ to fall into sin.

**2. The qualities required of an elder take time to develop, and they must be developed through \_\_\_\_\_.**

- The only person who ever has or ever will fulfill those qualifications \_\_\_\_\_ is Jesus Christ!
- We cannot expect perfection from our elders, but we should expect a \_\_\_\_\_ of godliness in every area of their life.
- Churches must \_\_\_\_\_ men to become godly leaders, which can be done by seeking to disciple them in three important areas of their lives:
  - A. An elder must demonstrate moral and spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.**
    - The first qualification is that a man must be “above reproach”, which is really just \_\_\_\_\_ by the character qualities that follow it.
    - In both of Paul’s lists, the first specific character quality is to be “the husband of one wife”, which is a requirement to be \_\_\_\_\_ pure.

**Eph 5.3** *But **sexual immorality** and all impurity or covetousness **must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.***

- The qualifications God requires for an elder's marriage and family are meant to \_\_\_\_\_ the whole church.
- When choosing elders, we must not ignore the areas of sex, \_\_\_\_\_, and power, because these are the areas in which most of the ethical and moral failures will occur among leaders.
- Since they are to be \_\_\_\_\_ of Christian living, elders must be spiritually devout, righteous, lovers of good, hospitable, and morally above reproach among Christians and non-Christians.
- An elder must be a spiritually \_\_\_\_\_, humble, time-proven disciple of Jesus Christ.

**B. An elder must demonstrate certain \_\_\_\_\_.**

- An elder must be able to \_\_\_\_\_ his own household well.

**1 Tim 3.4–5** *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?*

- A man may be a successful businessman, or a brilliant office manager, or a skilled public official, or a top military leader, but he could also be quite a \_\_\_\_\_ father or church elder.
- This does not mean that single men or married men who have no children cannot be elders, because the qualifications regarding marriage and children should not be taken as \_\_\_\_\_ to marry and have children.

**1 Cor 7.8–9** *To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain **single as I am.** 9 But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.*

**1 Cor 7.32–33** *I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about **the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord.** 33 But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife,*

- An elder must be able to provide an \_\_\_\_\_ for others to follow.

**1 Pet 5.3** *not domineering over those in your charge, but being **examples to the flock.***

**Phil 3.17** Brothers, join in **imitating me**, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to **the example you have in us**.

**1 Cor 11.1** Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

- An elder must be able to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the Christian faith.

**Titus 1.9** 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.

- In order to do those things, an elder must:
  - Be \_\_\_\_\_ at reading and studying the Scriptures,
  - Be able to helpfully \_\_\_\_\_ Biblical issues,
  - Be committed to Biblical \_\_\_\_\_ beliefs,
  - Be able and willing to \_\_\_\_\_ them clearly to others,
  - Be able to \_\_\_\_\_ the truth against false teaching.

**John 7.15** The Jews therefore marveled, saying, "**How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?**"

**Acts 4.13** Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, **and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished**. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

- C. An elder must demonstrate spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Pet 5.2** 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;

- It is an important qualification for an elder to have a \_\_\_\_\_ to love and care for God's people.

#### Conclusion:

- Churches must be committed to only appointing \_\_\_\_\_ men as elders.
- Elders must be committed to demonstrating godly \_\_\_\_\_ in every area of their lives.

- **Elders must be committed to demonstrating the \_\_\_\_\_ to know, explain, and defend God's Word.**