

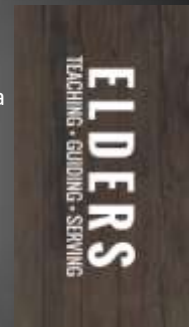
## Elders/ Pastors Qualifications

- Able to Teach.
  - This is a competency. First, he must know sound doctrine and cherish it for himself.
  - Second, he must be able to communicate it to others. Paul does not specify whether it is one-on-one, or to a lot of people.
  - Third, pastors must be able to go face to face with those who do not have sound doctrine. You must be able to correct them. They must champion the proper biblical view.
- Everything mentioned thus far are the qualities that are required. These are positive things that must be true about the elder.
- The rest of the list moves to opposite side of the coin. It focuses on what must NOT be true of the elder. It focuses on forbidden matters.



## Elders/ Pastors Qualifications

- Drunkenness.
  - By extension, this refers to any mind-altering drug. (Eph 5:18)
- Violence (gentle instead).
  - We don't get into theological sword battles. We are gentle, but it does not mean we are wimps. Even with church discipline, it is in a spirit of gentleness.
  - He also must not be a brawler.
- Quarrelsomeness.
  - We don't get in debates over minutia. Contra Twitter.
- Greediness.
  - We are not there for materialistic gain. This is why Paul says the ones who excel in teaching are worthy of double honor.
  - This refers not only to respect, but also remuneration. They are supposed to be paid well. Some churches think they need to keep their pastor humble by paying them little. Some think it will make him greedy and arrogant, but if they are already proven not to be greedy and out for sordid gain, then paying a pastor well will get harder work out of him and allow him to show more generosity himself.



## Elders/ Pastors Qualifications

- He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive.
  - Paul says this because we assess elders at the microcosmic level of his family, which gives a good indicator that he will be able to manage at the macro level. It is not a guarantee, but it is a good indicator. If we are able to manage our own families well, it makes sense we can do the same for the church.
  - What about a single man? Maybe he is an educator. How does he manage the 30 kids in his high school math class? If he is a businessman, how does he manage his staff?
- He must not be a new convert.
  - In the list in Titus, this requirement is not listed since it was in a pioneering situation. So generally speaking, we are looking for mature Christians for pastors.
  - But in pioneering situations, you have no choice, and younger Christians might need to be elders. In Derbe, Icononian, and Lystra were young churches with elders appointed in these churches, even though the churches were only weeks old. Paul picked the most mature new Christians. When we are not in a situation like this, then we must follow Paul's rule in 1 Timothy.



## Elders/ Pastors Qualifications

- He must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.
  - His neighbors and colleagues at work are important too. What if they say he is not kind, or worse?
- Final Thoughts on qualifications.
  - The application and contextualization of these biblical qualifications for the office of pastor are of signal importance for churches today that hope to honor Jesus Christ, whose will includes that they are led by elders possessing these characteristics in high and increasing measure.
  - Elders are not perfect, but are mature. Also, there should be a plurality. Every snapshot of it in the NT shows a plurality. We never see an example with one pastor alone, nor do we see a single pastor with a board of deacons. It makes a lot of sense to have the plurality. The church is shouldered on all leaders shoulders instead of one guy. It allows for accountability too.



## Elders/ Pastors Responsibilities

- There are responsibilities in four areas.
- First, Teaching:
  - This is the competency all elders must meet. They must be able to teach, and refute sound doctrine.
  - Some elders will concentrate more on preaching and teaching. All pastors must be able to teach, but some will give themselves more over to this (1 Tim 5:17).
  - Elders should be leading Bible studies, teaching in Sunday School, preaching on Sunday mornings and other times, determining the content of our childrens programs and all classes. They should be engaged in small group discipleship, centered on the word. They should be discipling individuals, centered on the word. In membership meetings, they should teach the doctrinal statement and the church covenant.
  - They should study the word by themselves, and with other elders. They should model commitment to the Word. This makes the leaders grow in competence, and sometimes leads to members of the church doing the same thing.



## Elders/ Pastors Responsibilities

- There are responsibilities in four areas.
- Second, leading.
  - In 1 Tim 5:17, this is a responsibility for all elders. We are to care for the flock. This leadership is always under the headship of Christ, and it is a restricted and delegated authority.
  - 1 Timothy 5:17 – The elders who are good leaders are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.
  - They cannot usurp the authority of the congregation, but must exercise authority where the Bible delegates it.
  - What this looks like in practice is pastors manage and direct pastoral and staff teams, they create the budget, they develop and execute the ministries and philosophy of ministry, elders hire new staff, they will create and enforce policies, lead congregational meetings, and develop new elders.



## Elders/ Pastors Responsibilities

- There are responsibilities in four areas.
- Third, praying (for the sick).
- We pray in general, but this is a specific responsibility given to elders in James 5:13-15. This is a biblical ministry and people should know.
  - What is the anointing of oil? It is not medicinal (even though Olive Oil has a compound found in Ibuprofen, because you have to drink a bathtub full).
  - Nor is the sacrament of anointing the sick as you find in the RCC. God's grace is not infused through this.
  - Instead, it is a mark of consecration. We mark the person out and ask God's attention on this person so He would heal them. Dr. Allison makes a mark of the cross and consecrates the person.
  - They also ask if they believe their sickness is tied to any personal act of sin. It is possible as James talks about this. If they say yes, then they get them to confess. In the whole process, you have to pray in faith.
  - You must believe that God will heal the person. They don't pray, "Lord we ask your will be done." That is the whole presupposition of prayer. That is the already present attitude. Instead, they pray, "Heal this person. We believe that you can and will." It is always under the sovereignty of God. He may answer no, or yes naturally, or yes miraculously (God does this still). This is not a guarantee as the health, wealth, and prosperity people say. We are praying under the sovereignty of God. But when praying, expect that God will heal. That is faith.

## Elders/ Pastors Responsibilities

- There are responsibilities in four areas.
- Fourth, Shepherding.
  - This is brought out in 1 Peter 5:1-5. There is overlap with leading and teaching. Ephesians 4:11 says pastor-teacher. So they go hand in hand. It is supposed to be exemplary leadership.
  - The congregation is called to imitate and submit to its leaders (Hebrews 13:7, 17).
  - Hebrews 13:7 – Remember your leaders who have spoken God's word to you. As you carefully observe the outcome of their lives, imitate their faith.
  - Elders who are shepherding are providing stellar examples of following Christ, they are teaching, warning of danger, alerting members to heresies, leading in the exercise of church discipline, and praying for the sick.
- So the men have to have character, competency, calling, and chemistry (can he work well with the other elders). The downfall of elders in most cases is in the character issue. They are capable, but they fall morally.

