

Introduction: upcoming re-examination of Ben and myself; prayer for more men to be raised up

- basic explanation of rule of elders – two office - plurality/parity – not over-emphasis on public gifts, but men of wisdom who work together for the wise decision making of the church

## I. THE NECESSARY CONCERN FOR A QUALIFIED MINISTRY

### A. These are the men who equip you for ministry – Ephesians 4:11-12ff

- if this is so, the Christian will normally be lacking or imbalanced without faithful shepherding

### B. These are men who you are to obey in the Word – Hebrews 13:7, 17

- These are the men who shepherd your souls under Christ –
- The comes by way of their convincing, rebuking, and exhorting – 2 Timothy 2:2
- Sometimes sharp rebuke – Titus 1:13; 2:15
- This all balanced with 2 Timothy 2:24ff
- You must have confidence that they are able handlers of the Word, not being blown back and forth by every wind and wave of doctrine, every new fad, every fantastic interpretation
- You must know that they are careful
- Though imperfect, learning themselves and willing to be corrected

### C. These are the men who are your examples to follow – 1 Peter 5:3; 1 Timothy 4:12

- these are men to whom you ought, by and large, to be able to look to and point your children to as godly men

### D. These are the men who personally care for your soul – Acts 20:28; Hebrews 13:17

- they do this by praying for you, studying the Word to give guidance, knowing you personally

- In all these cases, these are not the exclusive, but certainly a primary means to these things
- These are men; imperfect, growing in grace

Application: Who are your shepherds? Who are those particular men God has given to you for these things? Not radio teachers/preachers, bookwriters, web sites, etc.

## II. THE NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS FOR A QUALIFIED MINISTRY

### 1 Timothy 3

*If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work*

- A man (masculine) = limits to male gender
- Bishop (episkopays); overseer; one who visits, looks over; a position of responsibility
- This word designates an office of leadership within the church; synonymous terms being pastor and elder
- the word itself is one who looks over
- Desires (orego) = reach out for, stretch out toward to reach; strive, aspire to, long for
- Desires (epithumeo) = a strong impulse for something, earnest desire
- Work (ergon) = have heard men jokingly say “the reason I went into the ministry is so I wouldn’t have to work”
- Good (kalos) = a good quality
- a desire for the office is in and of itself good, with the understanding that it is a work

### A bishop then must be blameless

- Must be (dei) = particle of necessity; all of these are non-negotiable
- Illustration: employer gives you the responsibility to hire someone with certain specific qualifications
- Blameless (anepilayptos) = lit. “not to be laid hold of”
- Illustration: the holds in a rock which a climber can grasp; not smooth like glass, but pocked;
- Violations of God’s Word, not preferences, quirks, etc.; no just accusation of unrepentant patterns of sin

### 1.) The husband of one wife

- lit. one woman man; normally married; clear by his life that he is a committed and faithful husband to that one woman
- if you ask her, she feels loved by him and cared for by him; doesn’t feel like she is competing with anyone else

### 2.) Temperate - from root of “restrained”; behaving in a controlled and purposeful manner

- one who holds himself in or controls with a halter; passions do not run wild; doesn’t get an idea and just run with it

### 3.) Sober-minded - having a good or healthy mind; “having the ability to curb desires and impulses so as to produce a measured and orderly life (Friberg)

### 4.) Of good behavior - disciplined, honorable, respectable; of dress characterized by respectability – modest and sensible

### 5.) Hospitable - lover of strangers; hospitable to those who are foreign to his own household, whether believers or not

### 6.) Able to teach - skillful in teaching; assumes the teaching held is solid, and an ability to communicate to others in a helpful way; only time teaching qualification given; yet, *he is teaching by his very life*

- a man is not called to the ministry if, despite being able to know the truth and teach it with great ability, he is not morally qualified

### 7.) Not given to wine - addicted to wine; drunken; of one who tends to be quarrelsome as he habitually drinks too much

## Qualifications of Elders

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- not one who doesn't drink wine (or now any addictive, mind altering substance that clouds judgment), but with the above qualifications demonstrates an ability to control himself
  - 8.) **Not violent** - a striker; pugnacious (combative in nature), bully, quarrelsome person
    - [not greedy for money [textual variant]]
  - 9.) **But gentle** - all = strong contrast to previous qualification; thus, gentle, kind, forbearing
    - not that there aren't times of rebuke, exhortation, or pointedness; but it is clear there is love, care, concern and the spirit not of a belligerent father, but one who has greatest care and concern
  - 10.) **Not quarrelsome** - not disposed to fight or quarrel; peaceable
    - this is true both physically and theologically; while he loves to defend the faith, he isn't looking to pick a fight with anyone he can find; this is fleshed out in 2Timothy 2:24, 25
  - 11.) **Not covetous** - not loving money, greedy, liberal and generous with what he has
    - doesn't mean he is necessarily poor, but uses means to do good to others
  - 12.) **One who rules his own house well** – (most expanded qualification) rule = put oneself at the head; lead, direct, care for, help, give aid; engage oneself in devotion to; assumption that he is the one who rules his house; he does so well
    - not overbearing, considerate, kind, yet leader making decisions and taking responsibility for those decisions***having his children in submission with all reverence***
    - submission = obedience, subjection; reverence = respect***having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination (Titus 1:6)***  
***(for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);***
    - the reason is then given; there is a parallel between how he does in his house and how he will do in the church
    - the responsibility is basically the same; to rule well (take care = care for, look after, have charge of), and to do so with the members having a healthy and loving respect for his leadership
    - Paul is arguing that he cannot do the one without the other, and if he is not doing well in the home, then he can't do so in the church
  - 13.) **Not a novice** - lit. newly planted; newly converted, only beginning; by implication, one who is immature and unsteady  
***lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.***
  - 14.) **Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.**
    - A good witness, reputation; a good name; To those outside = nonbelievers; assumes relationships with unbelievers; assumes a personal knowledge (i.e. beyond surface level cashier, bank manager), but interaction
    - What does the world say about him? Not about his message, but about his life?
- Titus 1**
- 15.) **As a steward of God**
    - one put in charge of a house or estate; held responsible
  - 16.) **Not self-willed**
    - one who pleases himself; his agenda; stubborn, arrogant; will not be corrected
  - 17.) **Just**
    - upright, righteous in his conduct; one whose life is ruled by what is right
  - 18.) **Holy**
    - devout, dedicated to God
  - 19.) **Holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught**
    - not blown to and from by every new theological fad; not to his own pet doctrines, but the fullness of the Word of God
    - he is a teachable man, and has shown he doesn't believe he has his own view of truth which no one else sees
    - not a man who has lived by the principle "just me and my bible", but thinks, listens, and is himself teachable  
**that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.**
    - sound doctrine = biblical teaching that bears forth good fruit in the life of God's people
    - with skill to exhort and convict those who live contrary to God's Word
    - though not quarrelsome yet has courage to defend the truth of God against error

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### Application

- As a congregation - these are the qualifications you need to seriously consider as you observe the men among us, and as we come to this meeting for my re-examination
- As men who aspire to the ministry – you must also aspire for these qualifications
- As men in general – though this is not what you must be (in the same way as an elder), this is what you ought to be, and this is what you can be by God's grace; you lack nothing to see advancement in these areas