



Grace Life Church
of Dallas
The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

Elders/Pastors/Overseers

Church Leadership

Part 2

All Bible Verses are in the ESV Version (unless noted)

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Review From Last Week

Elders, Pastors, and Overseers are the same person

- **Acts 20:17 & 28** *Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him...v28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care (NASB shepherd) for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood*
- Elder (Position), Pastor (Role), Overseer (Rule)

There is to be a plurality of elders: equal in authority and sharing responsibility (Some pastors may be more given to preaching/teaching)

Elders are to shepherd the flock of God exercising oversight by leading, teaching, and protecting the sheep

- Elders care for the flock of God (Acts 20:29), watch over souls (Heb 13:17), shepherd the flock (1 Peter 5)
- The pulpit ministry of preaching/teaching in public is indispensable, but the call of the pastor goes beyond the pulpit to individually caring for all the souls of the church (house to house), for which he will give an account

Qualifications-Titus 1:5-9 & 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Titus 1:5 *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-if anyone is...*

– *v7For an overseers, as God's steward much be He must not be...*

- Graduating from a seminary does not mean you are qualified
- Being a Christian for a long time does not mean you are qualified
- Having the gift of teaching does not mean you are qualified

Elders are called to lead and to lead by example (as Christ demonstrated)

– Therefore their lives must fit the qualifications set forth in God's Word

1 Timothy 3:1-7 *Therefore an overseer must be* (necessary)

Above reproach: Overarching qualification: *blameless, unproveable, unaccused, cannot be called into account,* (Does not mean perfected)

the husband of one wife: *one woman man* (faithfulness/purity in marriage)

Sober-minded: *temperate (abstaining from wine)*

Self-controlled: *curbing one's own desires* (discipline, prioritizing)

Respectable: *well arranged, orderly*

Qualifications-Titus 1:5-9 & 1 Timothy 3:1-7

1 Timothy 3:1-7 *Therefore an overseer must be* (necessary)

Hospitable: generous to guest, love of strangers

Able to teach: skillful in teaching (God's Word) –Clear

- Rightly divide the word (2 Tim 2:15), correct opponents (2 Tim 2:24), equip saints for the work of the ministry (Eph 4:12), admonish/counsel (1 Thess 5:12, 14)

Not a drunkard: not under influence of things other than Holy Spirit and Word of God (Eph 5:18, Col 3:16)

Not violent, but gentle: ready for blows / Gentle (2 Tim 2:24-25, 1 Thess 5:14, Galatians 6:1, Titus 3:2)

Not quarrelsome: not contentious, abstains from fighting
(Seeks and promotes unity)

Not a lover of money: affections (heart) for money/power (1 Peter 5:2 *not for shameful gain*)

Qualifications-Titus 1:5-9 & 1 Timothy 3:1-7

1 Timothy 3:1-7 *Therefore an overseer must be (necessary)*

Manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive:

- *For if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church?*
- *Titus 1:7 For an overseer, as God’s steward (manager) (Matt 25:14-30)*

Not be a recent convert

- *Or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil*

Well thought of by outsiders

- *so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil*

These qualifications demonstrate the character of mature Christian men, who have demonstrated faithful stewardship in their life

- For such a high calling, men must be qualified according to Scripture
- If you find yourself saying “These are really high qualifications, I am glad I am not called to be a pastor” let me remind us all, these are characteristics that should define us all.

Qualified and Called

In the OT God called men by speaking directly to them

In the NT while Jesus was here, Jesus called men directly

Acts 20:28 *Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers*

1 Timothy 3:1 *The saying is trustworthy; If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.*

- *Aspires: to stretch oneself out in order to grasp something (Outward)*
- *Desires: to have a desire for, long for, lust after (Inward)*
- **Romans 1:1** *Paul, as servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God*
- **1 Cor 9:16** *For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!*
- Confirmation of calling: Outward aspiring of life, inward desire (while understanding the call and accountability), a “woe” unto yourself if you don’t, and Biblically qualified.

The Church's Responsibility to Elders

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 *We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work.*

- Respect-to have regard for, cherish, pay attention to
- Esteem highly in love-respect, admire, appreciate with love

Hebrews 13:17 *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.*

- Obey-To listen to, comply, yield
- Submit-to not resist, but to give way
- Let them do this with joy & not with groaning