

THE PASTOR’S “SPEC SHEET”

Titus 1:6-9

INTRODUCTION

- Most products today come with a list of specifications which details the attributes, characteristics and capabilities of the product.
- God has given a list of specifications for those in leadership
- The Levitical priests had strict qualifications for ministry (Leviticus 21:16-23)
- God also gave clear requirements and instructions for kings (Deuteronomy 17:16-20; 2 Samuel 23:3)
- So too in the present dispensation, the leaders of God’s people are to meet certain spiritual qualifications to be eligible.
- These standards are repeated in the New Testament because they are so important.
- What every pastor *must* be, every Christian *should* be.
- The elder is to lead by example, and this is why this list deals with his character traits first before dealing with the content of his preaching. (see 1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:9; Hebrews 13:7)

I. HIS FAMILY (6)

A. Husband of one wife

1. This disqualifies women from the office (1 Timothy 2:11-12; 1 Corinthians 14:34-37)
2. It excludes polygamy

3. It excludes divorced and/or remarried men
4. The word literally means “a one woman man”
5. Rome’s doctrine of celibate clergy is a “doctrine of devils” (1 Timothy 4:1-3)

B. Faithful children

1. Faithful means “believing”
2. They must be examples of obedience and dedication

II. HIS CHARACTER (7,8)

A. He is to be blameless

1. One against whom no evil charge can be sustained
2. Free from accusations that can be rightly proven (cf. 1 Timothy 5:19-20; Philippians 2:15)
3. He is to serve as a steward of God (1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 1 Peter 5:3)

B. Not self-willed

1. He does not insist on having his own way
2. He has the heart of a servant (Mark 10:41-45; Romans 15:1-3; 1 Corinthians 3:5-9)

C. Not soon angry (Ephesians 4:26)

D. Not given to wine

1. All Christians are called to total abstinence (Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-35)
2. Leaders, in particular are forbidden from being affected by alcohol (Proverbs 31:4-5)

E. No striker

1. Not pugnacious, in either action or attitude

F. Not given to filthy lucre

1. An attitude of detachment from wealth
2. He is liberal and generous with his possessions (cf. Acts 4:36-37)

G. Lover of hospitality (Romans 12:13; 1 Timothy 3:2; Hebrews 13:2; 1 Peter 4:9; 3 John 5)

H. Lover of good men

1. *philagathon* – loving what is good (Philippians 4:8)

I. Sober

1. Sound-minded, discrete
2. A grave and serious disposition (Ephesians 5:4)

J. Just

1. Upright, fair, equitable

K. Holy (1 Peter 1:16)

L. Temperate

1. Disciplined and self-controlled (Galatians 5:23)
2. He has control over his passions and appetites (Proverbs 16:32; 25:28)

III. HIS TEACHING (9)

A. He must hold to sound doctrine

1. This is a firm, unwavering commitment to God's truth
 2. He must have a thorough knowledge of Scripture (2 Thessalonians 2:15)
- B. He must teach sound doctrine
1. Churches that neglect the pre-eminence of the teaching of the doctrine of Scripture will soon become apostate.
 2. Most who profess to be Christians today will not endure sound doctrine (2 Timothy 4:3)
- C. He must reprove with sound doctrine
1. He can point out the error of false teaching and explain why it is wrong.
 2. Those who refuse to confront and rebuke error demonstrate they do not truly love the truth
 3. We need to have the same view of error as God does (Psalm 119:128)
 4. We must devote ourselves to the study of Scripture that we can both exhort and convince those who are in error

CONCLUSION

1. These qualifications show that God is concerned with both our character and conduct
2. They also show that the modern-day rejection of standards for Christians is the work of Satan
3. We must seek God's grace to enable us to *"walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing"* (Colossians 1:10).