

Qualifications of Elders

Sermon 3 – 2/25/18

1 Timothy 3:1-7

I. Introducing the Qualifications of an Elder v. 1

A. A Faithful Saying

B. Desire

C. A Good Work

II. The Chief Requirement – Blameless (above reproach) v. 2

III. Requirements for Elders v. 2-7

A. Five Virtues he must Possess.

1. Blameless

a. v. 2 -- Inside the church – no obvious disqualifying marks.

b. v. 7 – Outside the church -- not a known hypocrite.

2. The Husband of one wife (literally a one-woman man)

3, 4, 5. Temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior

Temperate = sober or clear-headed, not flighty

Sober-Minded = Self-controlled – discreet – prudent.

Of Good Behavior = Doing the right thing (even when no one's watching)

B. Two Ministry Related Qualifications

1. Given to Hospitality (literally – a lover of strangers).

2. Able to Teach

This does not mean eloquent.

This does not mean “has the gift of oratory”.

He knows the Scriptures.

He can defend the great doctrines of Scripture.

He can teach – publicly or one on one these truths.

C. Five Vices that must not be part of his Life

1, 2, 3. Not given to wine, Not violent, Not greedy for money

4, 5. Not quarrelsome, Not covetous

D. The Contrasting Virtue -- Gentle

Do a study on “gentle” and “gentleness”.

An elder should be a “gentleman”.

Gentleness is among the list of the fruit of the spirit.

Matthew 11:29 -- Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, **for I am gentle and lowly in heart**, and you will find rest for your souls.

E. One who rules his own house Well

There is a correlation between being an effective father and being an effective pastor.

F. Not a Novice (newly planted)

The very word “elder” implies age and wisdom.

Maturity doesn't always come with age. 1 Tim. 4:12-16

The danger is PRIDE. Humility is vital for a pastor.

The Lord knows how to humble His own.

Conclusion:

These are the primary qualities when looking toward men for the eldership.

They are normal and regular Christian virtues (aside possibly from apt to teach) and should be incorporated in our lives.