

“The Qualifications of an Elder”

I. Two Descriptions of Elder/Overseer Candidates

Titus 1:5–14

⁵This 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— ⁶if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers [or “faithful”] and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. ⁷For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, ⁸but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. ⁹He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

¹⁰For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. ¹¹They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach. ¹²One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” ¹³This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth.

1 Timothy 1:3–7; 3:1–7

³As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, ⁴nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. ⁵The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, ⁷desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions....

¹The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. ²Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? ⁶He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

II. A Compilation and Comparison of These Two Descriptions

Titus 1	1 Timothy 3
Office of Elder (Presbyter)/ Overseer (Bishop [<i>Episkopos</i>])	Office of Overseer (Bishop [<i>Episkopos</i>])
Above Reproach	[Same]
The Husband of One Wife	[Same]
Faithful Children Who Are Not Debauched or Insubordinate	Managing His Own Household Well, With All Dignity Keeping His Children Submissive
Not Arrogant	
Not Quick-Tempered	Not Quarrelsome
Not a Drunkard	[Same]
Not Violent	Not Violent but Gentle
Not Greedy for Gain	Not a Lover of Money
Hospitable	[Same]
Lover of Good	
Self-controlled	[Same]
Upright	
Holy	
Disciplined	
Holding Firm to the Trustworthy Word as Taught, and Thus Able to Instruct in Sound Doctrine and to Rebuke Those Who Contradict Sound Doctrine	Able to Teach
	Sober-Minded
	Respectable
	Not a Recent Convert
	Well-Thought-of by Outsiders