

Edgemont Bible Church
Pastor Al Osden
Titus 1:7-9

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Intro: A third category of qualification for eldership has five negative and six positive attributes that are to mark the pastor.

III. Qualifications of a Pastor - Part 2 General Character - vs 7-9

E. What a Pastor Must not Be - vs 7

1. a bishop/ overseer

a. **episkopos** - a superintendent, Christian officer in genitive case charge of a (or the) church:--bishop, overseer.

b. lit. one who sees or watches over

c. in the role of overseer, the elders are the spiritual and moral leaders and guardians of the Church

i. though Heb13:17 doesn't use the word, obviously speaking of the office - Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account.

ii. Peter speaking to fellow elders - 1Pe 5:2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

iii. Christ is called the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls - 1Pe 2:25

2. must be blameless,

a. Presented as an imperative, as well as, repeated twice in two verses

b. not optional - the elder must teach, but also set the godly example for people to follow

3. as a steward of God,

a. **oikonomos** - a house-distributor (manager), or overseer, an employee in that capacity; a fiscal agent (treasurer); a preacher (of the Gospel):--chamberlain, governor, steward.

i. manages the household on behalf of the owner

ii. Most were slaves or former slave

iii. Had great responsibility and authority

iv. Might have authority over other slaves, assigning tasks, supervising their work - responsibilities could include

- Care for the needs of the family

- household finances

- making sure the crops were planted, cultivated, harvested

v. Paul wrote that the church was the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. - 1Ti 3:15

- the church is the household of God

- the elder is the steward of that household

- God has given human oversight to the elders to use their giftedness to spiritually care for, feed, equip, counsel (admonish), discipline, and encourage its members

b. of God

i. "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among

which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the *church of God which He purchased with His own blood.* - Ac 20:28

ii. Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, *as those who must give account.* - Heb13:17

iii. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. - 1Co 4:2

4. First negative attribute

a. not self-willed,

i. **Authades** - self-pleasing, i.e. arrogant:--self-willed.

ii. Denotes arrogant self-interest that asserts its own will w/o regard for how others might be affected

iii. Disregards God's will replacing His purpose and glory w/ man's

b. Peter's description where self will leads

i. 2Pe 2:9-10 *They are presumptuous, self-willed.*

ii. 2Pe 2:12 *made to be caught and destroyed, will utterly perish in their own corruption,*

iii. 2Pe 2:14 *accursed children.*

iv. 2Pe 2:17-18 *for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.*

c. though the world sees the aggressive, self assertive person as a leader, this characteristic disqualifies from eldership

5. Second negative attribute

a. not quick-tempered

i. **orgilos** - irascible (having or showing a tendency to be easily angered):--soon angry.

ii. Does not refer to occasional outbursts, but a propensity to anger

b. the elder must guard against a spirit of hostility, resentment, and anger, even when things go wrong and people are critical

c. works with others in kindness, patience, and gratitude even when they may fail or not do things the way he would have

6. Third negative attribute

a. not given to wine,

i. **paroinos** - staying near wine, i.e. tippling (a toper):--given to wine.

ii. Wine is not to be his companion

b. b/c of dirty water, the wine most commonly drunk in of Paul's day was either non-alcoholic or low alcohol level

c. obviously, Paul is dealing with addiction or dependency

d. drinking to the point of losing mental alertness and good judgment - **Pr 31:4-5**

e. A look at leadership and alcohol in the Bible

i. Moses and Aaron told not to drink strong drink - Lev 10:9

ii. The Nazirite vow (Nu 6:2-4) of which Samson, Samuel, and John the baptizer participated

7. Fourth negative attribute

a. not violent,

i. **plektes** - a smiter, pugnacious (quarrelsome):--striker.

ii. Apparently in NT times, it was still the way to settle arguments

iii. Can refer to physical or verbal

b. God's way - **2Ti 2:24-25**

8. Fifth negative attribute

a. not greedy for money, - **aischrokerdes** - sordid:--given to (greedy of) filthy lucre.

b. refers to a person without honesty or integrity getting prosperity at any cost

F. What a Pastor Must Be - vs 8

1. First positive attribute - but hospitable

a. **philoxenos** - fond of guests, hospitable:--given to (lover of, use) hospitality.

b. freely gives of time, resources, to meet the needs of others

c. NT Commendations of hospitality

i. Jesus says to invite those who can't return the favor - Lk 14:12-14

ii. Paul says

- do good to all, especially household of faith - Ga 6:10

- distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. - Ro 12:13

iii. Heb 13:2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

iv. 1Pe 4:9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.

2. Second positive attribute - a lover of what is good,

a. **philagathos** - fond to good, i.e. a promoter of virtue:--love of good men.

b. carries the idea of having strong affection for that which is intrinsically good

- Php 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.

3. Third positive attribute - sober-minded,

a. **sophron** - safe (sound) in mind, self-controlled (moderate as to opinion or passion):--discreet, sober, temperate.

b. describe a person that is sober minded and cool headed, who doesn't allow circumstances or the immorality or foolishness of others to distract him

4. Fourth positive attribute - just,

a. **dikaios** - equitable (in character or act); innocent, holy (absolutely or relatively):--just, meet, right(-eous).

b. denotes that which is proper, right, and fitting

c. translated righteous in many cases, used to describe God - Jo 17:17:25; Ro 3:26; 1 Jo 1:9

d. an elder who is just reflects the just and fair character of God

5. Fifth positive attribute - holy,

a. **hosios** - hallowed (pious, sacred, sure):--holy, mercy, shalt be

b. not the most common word used for holy - **hagios**

c. is closely related and has the same general meaning

d. is often used of God - Rev 15:2; Acts 2:27; Heb 7:26; 1 Th 2:10

6. Sixth positive attribute - self-controlled,

a. **egkrates** - strong in a thing (masterful), self-controlled (in appetite, etc.):--temperate.

- b. lives an exemplary life on the outside
 - i. submits to the Holy Spirit
 - ii. Continually monitors his life, dealing with sin, keeping a clear conscience
- c. **Charles Spurgeon, "Lectures to My Students" -John MacArthur Commentary, pg 43**

G. Teaching Skill - vs 9

1. Dealing primarily with ministry of the elder
 - a. Preaching
 - i. public proclamation of the truth
 - ii. intended primarily to move the will of the hearers to respond
 - iii. Involves admonition and exhortation
 - b. Teaching
 - i. directed more at causing the mind to understand
 - ii. Involves illumination and explanation
 - c. All elders are gifted in some way to teach - 1 Tim 3:2; 2 Tim 2:24
 - d. They are to work hard at preaching and teaching - 1 Tim 5:17
2. The Necessary Foundation - vs 9a
 - a. holding fast
 - i. **antechomai** - to hold oneself opposite to, adhere to; to care for:-- hold fast, hold to, support.
 - ii. Speaking of spiritual allegiance
 - iii. Jesus says that no one can serve two masters - Lk 16:13
 - b. the faithful word
 - i. **logos** - which refers to the expression of a concept, thought or truth
 - ii. Often used of revealed truth
 - iii. Often a synonym for scripture, the written word of God
 - c. as he has been taught,
 - i. Elders should not just know the word, but love it, respect it, study it, and obey it. What should discipleship look like
 - ii. Spiritual leadership is not built on natural abilities, education, common sense, human wisdom, but on his knowledge and understanding of Scripture
3. The Necessary Duty - vs 9b
 - a. by sound doctrine,
 - i. **hugiaino** - to have sound health, be well (in body); to be uncorrupt (true in doctrine):--**be in health**, (be safe and) sound, (be) **whole**(-some).
 - ii. The sole objective is to enlighten with doctrine that preserves the flock spiritual health
 - b. Two duties of elders
 - i. exhort - **parakaleo** - to call near, invite, invoke, beseech, call for, (be of good) comfort, desire, (give) exhort(-ation), intreat, pray.
 - ii. Convict- **elegcho** - to confute, admonish:--convict, convince, tell a fault, rebuke, reprove.
 - e. those who contradict.
 - i. **antilego** - to dispute, refuse:--answer again, contradict, deny, gainsay(-er), speak against.
 - ii. To give understanding that gives discernment necessary to protect from error