

Qualifications for Elders/Pastors

1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9

1. 1 Timothy 3:1-7

- a. If any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do:
- b. Above reproach: The qualified leader lives a life that is exemplary to those who know him.
- c. Man of one woman: A "one woman man."
- d. Temperate: Exercising personal restraint or self-control.
- e. **Prudent: He is "of sound mind."
- f. Respectable: The core idea is "well ordered" or disciplined.
- g. **Hospitable: He has a "love of strangers" rooted in the gospel.
- h. Able to teach: "Able" does not necessarily mean "gifted."

Titus 1:9 clarifies the meaning:

"Holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict."

- i. **Not addicted to wine: He does not live "alongside wine."
- j. **Not pugnacious: Literally "not a striker" or "not violent."
- k. But gentle: This is specifically in contrast to "not violent."
- l. Peaceable/not quarrelsome: This, too, is in contrast to "violent."
- m. Free from the love of money: He does not let money or possessions drive him.
- n. He must manage his own household: Management of a home involves the following:
 - o Vision and direction for his marriage and family as a whole
 - o A healthy understanding and focus on his marriage
 - o Wise management and discipline of his children
 - o Wise management of his finances
 - o Wise maintenance and care of his home
 - o A demonstration of organization and smooth operation
- o. Keeping his children under control with all dignity (this is a subset of household management):
 - o His children are "under control."
 - o He keeps them under control "with all dignity."
- p. Not a new convert: Not a "neophyte" or "newly planted."
- q. Good reputation with those outside the church: "A good testimony from those outside."

2. Titus 1:6-9 (the following are the additional qualifications to those found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7):

a. Having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion:

KJV = ... "having *faithful children* not accused of riot or unruly."

YLT = "having children *steadfast*, not under accusation of riotous living or insubordinate."

Why "*Faithful children*" is the preferred translation as opposed to "*children who believe*:"

- The word translated "believe" or "faithful" is the word πιστά (pista). It is an adjective that describes the children—they are to be "pista."
- This adjective is mostly translated "faithful" or "trustworthy" in the Pastorals:
1 Timothy 1:12 the Lord considered Paul "*faithful*"
1 Timothy 1:15; 3:1; 4:9; 2 Timothy 2:11; Titus 3:8 "it is a *trustworthy* (faithful) saying..."
1 Timothy 3:11 "Women must be...*faithful*..."
2 Timothy 2:2 "...entrust these to *faithful* men"
2 Timothy 2:13 "if we are unbelieving (verb), He remains *faithful* (adjective)"
Titus 1:9 "holding fast the *faithful* word"
- "Not accused of dissipation or rebellion" defines *faithful* and aligns with 1 Timothy 3:4.
- Paul does not make "believing children" a qualification for leaders in 1 Timothy 3.
- Faith is a gift of grace on the basis of election not a product of good parenting.
- Abraham, Jacob, Aaron, Eli, Samuel, David, Solomon, etc.

b. Not self-willed: Not his own authority.

MARKS of self-will:

- Intentional neglect of duties or half-hearted commitment.
- Alliance building.
- Backhanded comments or even condescension.
- Continuing to push an agenda after a decision has been made.
- Continuing to raise questions or point out deficiencies.
- An unwillingness to change a practice or a change that is done begrudgingly.

c. Not quick tempered: He is not a hot head.

d. Loving what is good: A mature believer is able to discern between what is good and evil (Romans 12:2; Hebrews 5:14).

e. Just: He is concerned about doing the right thing and seeing the right thing done.

f. Devout: Similar to "just" above but focused on our vertical relationship (person to God).

g. Self-controlled: The idea is one of power or mastery over self.