

The Qualifications of Elders – Part 1

1 Tim. 3:1-6; Tit. 1:5-11

Introduction:

- A. Elders must not be chosen by human leadership standards, but by the scriptural standard.
- B. The qualifications are neither optional nor flexible – a **must** (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:7).
 - 1. How many must one have? **All**.
 - 2. May not have all in the same degree. (Some absolute, some relative).
- C. The qualifications can be grouped into six classes: Physical, Experience, Ability, Character, Reputation and Habits.
- D. We will deal with three classes in this lesson and then three in the next lesson:

Discussion:

I. Physical Qualifications.

- A. An elder must be a **man** (1 Tim. 3:1; Tit. 1:6) – not “she” elders.
- B. An elder must be a **husband** (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:6).
 - 1. No bachelor.
 - 2. No polygamist.
 - 3. With faithful wives (1 Tim. 3:11)
- C. An elder must be a **father** (1 Tim. 3:4; Tit. 1:6).
 - 1. Of faithful (believing) children (cf. Acts 2:44 for the word believing)
 - 2. Of well-behaved children.
 - 3. Of one or more children – plural is so used when number is indefinite.
 - a. “Will those with children please sit near the back”
 - b. “Children” meaning one or more in Bible (Gen 16:1; 21:7; Eph. 6:4; Mk. 12:19; Tim. 5:10; Matt. 19:29).

II. Experience.

- A. No novice/new convert (1 Tim. 3:6).
 - 1. Does not have experience or knowledge.
 - 2. May be tempted to let eldership go to his head.
- B. Experience in ruling his house well (1 Tim. 3:4, 5).
 - 1. Proves ability to rule by how well he rules his house.
 - 2. Proves ability by having led his children into being Christians.
 - 3. If elders wife dies, has proven himself capable of ruling.

III. Ability.

- A. An elder must be apt (able, skilled) to teach (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:9).
 - 1. Must know enough to teach.
 - 2. Must be able to teach.
 - 3. Elders may have varying degrees of ability and skill – Still either able or not.
 - 4. Elders need to be apt to teach in order to supervise teachers/preachers in congregation.
- B. An elder must be able to refute error (Tit. 1:9-10; Acts 20:28-31).
 - 1. Well enough grounded to spot violations of Biblical principles.
 - 2. Courageous enough to stand up against unscriptural innovations into the church.
- C. Able to lead/rule well.

Conclusion:

- A. Elders are experienced family men of ability.
- B. Next week: Character, reputation and habits.