

Titus

(3) Qualifications for Elders

Titus 1:5-9

5 The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

6 An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.

7 Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless – not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain.

8 Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.

9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. NIV

Initial qualifications for a church Elder...1:5-9 (see ITim.3:1-7)

Paul left Titus in Crete for what (2) specific tasks? 1:5

1) to set in order what was left unfinished 2) to appoint elders in every town (in Crete).

What are the (3) functions of a church Elder? see Acts 20:17, 28 (see all 3 words used)

Elder (presbuteros, old, leader), Overseer/bishop (episkopos), shepherd/pastor (poimaino).

How are some of these functions expressed in the church? 2:1; ITim.3:2, 5:17

By leading/overseeing (governing) and by teaching (shepherding) and guarding doctrine.

What is the process for becoming an Elder? Acts 20:28, 13:2-3; ITim.3:1; Titus 1:5

1) made overseers by the Holy Spirit 2) desire 3) recognized/appointed by existing Elders

What is the first listed requirement for a man who would be an Elder? 1:6a; IJn.1:8

He must be blameless, above reproach. Not sinless! There is 'nothing to take hold upon'.

What is the next requirement? 1:6b; ITim.3:2 Comment?

He must be a "one-woman man". Requires marriage? No divorce? No sexual immorality.

What is the next requirement? 1:6c; ITim.3:4,5 Comment?

His children are believers, not known as wild/disobedient. He manages his household well.

What detailed points are added in 1:7b? ITim.3:2-3

Blameless. Not quarrelsome, quick-tempered, drunken, violent, unscrupulous. Blameless.

What's the requirement(s) added in 1:8? ITim.3:2-7

He must be hospitable, loves what's good, self-controlled, upright, holy, disciplined.

And finally, what is the focus of 1:9? ITim.4:1, 6, 11, 5:17; IITim.2:15, 3:16-17, 4:1-5

He must hold firmly to the Word and be able to teach/defend sound doctrine. Critical!

Applications:

Why are the standards so high for Elders/Overseers/Pastors? 1:7a; ITim.3:5

He's entrusted with God's work! The flock will not rise above their shepherds.

What is the ultimate result for any church that has unqualified leadership? Rev.2:1-7

The congregation will be impotent. The gift of godly leadership is a precious treasure.

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