

# Elders—Qualifications (1)

**Introduction:** Having discussed the position of an elder in the last lesson, we must move on the qualifications. It is necessary to have a good grasp of the qualifications as they do relate to other topics in this series.

## I. Breakdown Of The Qualifications.

- A. Found in **1 Timothy 3:17; Titus 1:6-9.**
- B. They can be arranged in six categories.
  - 1. Character.
  - 2. Reputation.
  - 3. Domestic relations.
  - 4. Experience.
  - 5. Habits.
  - 6. Ability.

[Our lesson today will discuss Character and Reputation]

## II. Character.

- A. Must desire to serve.
  - 1. Defined as “to reach out or stretch out...signifying the mental effort of stretching oneself out for a thing, of longing after it, with stress upon the object desired.”
  - 2. **“Not by compulsion, but willingly” (1 Peter 5:2).**
  - 3. Not political “campaigning.”
  - 4. Motivated by duty, loyalty, service.
- B. Holy.
  - 1. Explained as “religiously right.”
  - 2. Relationship to God.
  - 3. Faithful to the word.
- C. Just.
  - 1. Defined as “rendering to each other his dues; passing just judgment on others, whether expressed in words or shown by the manner of dealing with them.”
  - 2. No respecter of persons.
  - 3. No selfishness or prejudice.
- D. Gentle (Patient, KJV).
  - 1. Fair, moderate.
  - 2. Can deal with those who are weak, to help build them up.

- E.** Good behavior.
  1. Signifies being decent, modest, orderly.
  2. Careful, not slothful, systematic.
- F.** Lover of what is good (lover of good men, KJV).
  1. Good men love good people and the good in people.
  2. Seeks to develop and cultivate good in every Christians. Strong says, “a promoter of virtue.”

### **III. Reputation.**

- A.** Blameless.
  1. Defined as “that cannot be laid hold of, hence, not open to censure, irreproachable,”
  2. This does not demand perfection.
    - a. Paul blamed Peter (**Gal. 2:11**).
    - b. Yet, Peter was an elder (**1 Peter 5:1**).
    - c. Made correction.
  3. Charge against him will prove to be false (“skeleton”).
- B.** Good testimony (report, KJV) among them who are outside.
  1. Respected in **all** classes.
  2. Must be consistent not matter when it is or among whomever.
  3. Inconsistency is the quickest invitation to ridicule.
- C.** Hospitable.
  1. “Generous to guests.”
  2. **“Be hospitable to one another without grumbling” (1 Peter 4:9).**
- D.** Quarrelsome (Brawler, KJV).
  1. “Not contentious.”
  2. No argumentative spirit.
  3. Not actively engaged in every squabble.
  4. Leads to worse things (more later).
- E.** Not greedy for money (filthy lucre, KJV).
  1. In **Titus 1:7**, one who stoops to improper means to get gain.
  2. Must be honest and trustworthy.
- F.** Not greedy for money (filthy lucre, KJV).
  1. In **1 Timothy 3:3**, “without covetousness.”
  2. Stingy, love for money greater than love for Christ and brethren.
- G.** Not violent (no striker, KJV).
  1. Defined as “Bruiser, ready with a blow, a pugnacious, contentious, quarrelsome person.”
  2. Next step after a “brawler.”
  3. Ought to be peaceable and level-headed, not “hair-triggered”, spoiling for a scrap.

**Conclusion:** Yes, God wants elders in ever church. However, He doesn't want just anyone to serve as an elder. Since it is an important position, these qualifications are necessary to allow the right ones to serve as elders.