

## **Elders—Qualifications (2)**

**Introduction:** This week we will continue our study on the qualifications of elders. As we said last week, 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 Domestic relations]

### **II. Husband Of One Wife.**

- A.** This means a married man.
  - 1.** Rules out single man.
  - 2.** Rules out women.Must be lawfully married.
- B.** What if his wife dies?
  - 1.** Is he disqualified? Permanently?
    - a.** Arguments made on both sides.
    - b.** I have known some who stepped down.
    - c.** I have known one who did not.
  - 2.** More on this later.
- C.** From a practical standpoint.
  - 1.** An elder's wife plays an important role in his service.
  - 2.** She helps him.
    - a.** In certain situation of visiting and counseling.
    - b.** Perhaps by offering an insight into a certain case.
    - c.** They will very likely work as a team.

### III. Having Children.

- A. Does this mean two or more?
  - 1. Our English language would say “Yes.”
    - a. Child—singular; children—plural.
  - 2. Greek language is not so distinct.
    - a. Word is TEKNON.
    - b. Used in two ways, singular and plural.
      - 1) Singular (**1 tim. 4:17**).
      - 2) Plural (**1 jn. 3:10**).
      - 3) Both in same sentence (**Matt. 10:21; 21:28**).
      - 4) Determined by context (more on this later).
- B. Faithful.
  - 1. Most common usage is in reference to “the faith” (**Acts 16:15; Col. 1:2**).
  - 2. There are exceptions (**Lk. 16:12**).
  - 3. ASV has “**...having children that believe...**”
  - 4. What if a child falls away? Does that disqualify him?
    - a. Is the child a member of his house?
    - b. More on this later.

### IV. Rules His Own House Well.

- A. Must be head of the house.
  - 1. In regard to his wife (**Eph. 5:23**).
  - 2. In regard to his children (**Eph. 6:4**).
  - 3. In neither case is a dictatorship suggested.
  - 4. It is a proving of leadership.
- B. “**In submission with all reverence (gravity, KJV).**”
  - 1. Submission=obedience; reverence=respect.
  - 2. Eanedred through what is the practice.
- C. “**Not accused of dissipation or insubordination (riot or unruly, KJV).**”
  - 1. riot=wasteful; unruly=disobedient.
  - 2. Follows a good example learned at home. A good reprot.
- D. “**for if a man does noot know how to rule his own hious, how will he take care of the church of God?**”
  - 1. Required of elders to be leaders and rule (**1 Tim. 5:17; Heb. 13:7, 17**).
  - 2. That ability begins at home.

**V. “More On This Later.”**

- A.** There are many applications that will have to be determined by a local church.
- B.** Such things as an elder whose wife has died--later he remarries.
- C.** Whether one child or more.
- D.** When the child falls away.
- E.** This I know—if the church loses confidence in an elder, he is compromised and will be to do little, if any, good.

**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.