

## **Elders—Qualifications (3)**

**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 the last three categories]

### **II. Experience.**

- A.** Temperate (Vigilant, KJV)—**1 Tim. 3:2.**
  - 1.** Originally the word meant complete abstinence from wine. Also, figuratively, may be used to indicate “watchful care over his own conduct” (Albert Barnes).
  - 2.** “In the New Testament the meaning of the verb is always metaphorical, to be calm, dispassionate, and circumspect” (Vincent’s Word Studies).
  - 3.** “Watchfulness” implies looking out for danger (**Acts 20:28-31**) and opportunities for advancement.
- B.** Not a novice—**1 Tim. 3:6.** “lit., newly-planted, denotes a new convert, neophyte, novice..., of one who by inexperience is unfitted to act as a bishop or overseer in a church.” (Vine).

### **III. Habits.**

- 1.** Self-controlled (temperate, KJV)—**Titus 1:8.**
  - a.** “Denotes exercising self-control” (Vine).
  - b.** Who would want an elder who is out of control?
- 2.** Sober-minded (sober, KJV)—**1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8.**
  - a.** This emphasizes being calm, thoughtful, serious; using common sense.
  - b.** Must not let emotions and passions get the better of him.
  - c.** Some situations are very “charged.” Must be the master of himself in such.

3. Not self-willed—**Titus 1:7**.
  - a. “Not self-pleasing, denotes one who, dominated by self-interest and inconsiderate of others, arrogantly asserts his own will.” (Vine).
  - b. An elder must work with other elders, thus sometimes must compromise in areas of judgment.
    - 1) Must not be arrogant, inconsiderate.
    - 2) Some think “I have to have my way.” **See 1 Peter 5:3.**
  - c. He must work with the congregation and be willing to yield his personal preferences.
4. Not quick-tempered (not soon angry, KJV)—**Titus 1:7**.
  - a. This qualification relates to others; i. e. “no striker.”
  - b. Elders will have a great deal of pressure and stress at times and should not be hot-headed.
5. Not given to wine—**1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7**.
  - a. Greek is MA PAROINON.
    - 1) MA—a negative (not).
    - 2) PAROINON—at or near wine.
  - b. “Not lingering with the cup.”
    - 1) Not talking about medicinal use.
    - 2) This is talking about abstinence of drinking for social reasons or personal pleasure.

### III. Ability.

- A. Able to teach—**1 Tim. 3:2**. “skilled in teaching”.
  1. One is “apt” (ready or skilled) who has the knowledge and experience to communicate the truth.
  2. A relative quality. Does not mean they do all the teaching, but must be capable teachers.
- B. Holding fast the faithful word—**Titus 1:9**.
  1. He must be able to “exhort” (“to urge one to pursue a certain course of conduct”) and “convince” (convict, confute, refute, usually with the suggestion of putting the convicted person to shame”) the gainsayer (the one who speaks against the truth).
  2. This would involve both public and private teaching, though it would not demand that a man be an eloquent speaker.

**Conclusion:** Yes, God wants elders in every 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.