



# **The Qualifications of Elders-Overseers**

**We are looking at the qualities  
they must possess written in  
1Tim 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9**

# The First Qualification

- “...if any man aspires to the office...” 1Tim 3:1
- “...not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*...” 1Peter 5:2
  - Aspire ~ to seek to accomplish a specific goal, *aspire to, strive for, desire* (BDAG)
    - Heb 11:16
  - Voluntarily ~ without compulsion, i.e. *deliberately, intentionally* (BDAG)
    - Heb 10:26
  - According to *the will of God* ~
    - Rom 12:2, 1Peter 4:1-2

# The Qualities

- *Blameless*
- *Husband of one wife*
- *Temperate -Self controlled*
- *Sober-minded*
- *Not Self willed*
- *A lover of what is good*
- *Just*
- *Holy*
- *Of good behavior*
- *Hospitable*
- *Able to teach-Hold fast the Word, Exhort & Convict*
- *Not given to wine*
- *Not violent*
- *Not quarrelsome-quick tempered*
- *Gentle*
- *Not greedy for money*
- *Not covetous*
- **Rules house well -children in submission -faithful children**
- **Not a novice**
- **Has a good testimony from those outside**

# Rules His Own House Well

■ Rules = to exercise a position of leadership, *rule, direct, be at the head (of)*, (BDAG).

□ 1 Thess 5:12 *"But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, "*

□ Romans 12:8 *"or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. "*

□ 1 Timothy 5:17 *"The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. "*

■ The next phrase in 1Tim 3:4 gives some explanation of ruling his household well.

# Having Children in Submission With All Reverence

■ Submission = the state of submissiveness, *subjection*, *subordination*, as opposed to setting oneself up as controller (BDAG).

□ Hebrews 12:9 "*Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? "*

■ Reverence = a manner or mode of behavior that indicates one is above what is ordinary and therefore worthy of special respect of a human being, *dignity*, *seriousness*, *probity*, *holiness*=Latin ~ *gravitas* (BDAG).

□ 1 Tim 2:2 "*for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.* "

□ Titus 2:7 "*in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified,* "

# Having Faithful Children Not Accused of Dissipation or Insubordination

- Faithful = 1 pertaining to being worthy of belief or trust, *trustworthy, faithful, dependable, inspiring trust/faith*, 2 pertaining to being trusting, *trusting, cherishing faith/trust* (BDAG)
- 67 forms of “pistis”, I count 31 refer to being faithful to God and the rest refer to God, Lord, Word, sayings or statements, and servants (mostly in parables).
- Children faithful to dad or God or both?
  - Do we apply this only to children living in his home but not adult children on their own?
  - Because they are “elders,” and “dissipation” was a vice stereotypically attributed to young men, not children, these elders are apparently held responsible for the behavior of their adult children. In the Roman world, sons were to respect their fathers, who had legal authority to rule their sons as long as they lived. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary*

# Not Accused of Dissipation

■ the verb *σῴζω* refers to preservation, hence *σῴζω* generally denotes 'wastefulness', then reckless abandon, *debauchery, dissipation, profligacy*, especially exhibited in convivial (partying) gatherings (BDAG).

■ Proverbs 28:7 *"He who keeps the law is a discerning son, But he who is a companion of gluttons humiliates his father."*

■ Ephesians 5:18 *"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,"*

■ 1Peter 4:4 *"In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you;"*

# Not Accused of Insubordination

- Refusing submission to authority, *undisciplined, disobedient, rebellious* (BDAG)

- 1 Tim 1:8-9 *"But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers"*

- Titus 1:10 *"For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,"*

# **Conclusion on Ruling House Well**

■ **How a man rules his house is the testing ground for elders. He can't take classes on how to lead a family and then be qualified, he must have experienced it and learned to do it well.**

■ **The qualities of his children are used to determine whether he has ruled his house well. In summation his children are to be:**

□ **Submissive, Dignified, Faithful, not drunkards or gluttons and not undisciplined or rebellious.**

□ **How many must fit this mold? 100%, 75%, 50%, 25%? Ideally 100% but we must make a judgment when some don't. The lower the percentage, the lower the likelihood of qualification.**

■ **These qualities in children would demand a good example, and proper teaching and admonition in the Lord from their father.**

# Not A Novice

- **Novice = literally ‘newly planted’, figuratively (only in Christian literature) newly planted in the Christian community, *newly converted* (BDAG)**
- **Lest he become puffed up (or conceited) and fall to the devil.**
- **He is telling us that a new convert is more susceptible to being puffed about himself, thinking he has done something great in and of himself and therefore be susceptible to the falling into the devils hands. Then what would happen to the church if this were to happen.**

# A Good Testimony From Outsiders

- That he might not fall into the devils trap of reviling = act of disparagement that results in disgrace, *reproach, reviling, disgrace, insult* (BDAG)
- If the leaders of a congregation were behaving so that disgrace would come upon him, what would it also mean to the congregations reputation.
- 1 Peter 3:15-17 *"but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong."*