



# **The Qualifications of Elders-Overseers**

**We will look at all 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-exhort & convict
- Not given to wine
- Not violent
- Not greedy for money
- Gentle
- Not quarrelsome-quick tempered
- Not covetous
- Rules house well -children in submission -faithful children
- Not a novice
- Has a good testimony from those outside

# Blameless or Above Reproach

- *irreproachable* (BDAG)
- It seems as if this may be an overarching principal to all the qualifications given.
- 1 Tim 6:14 *"that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing,"*
- What commandment?
  - 1Tim 6:11-12 *"But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."*

# Husband of One Wife

- An elder must be a man married to one woman. They should be above reproach in this. They should be examples of the following passages:
- 1 Peter 3:7 *"Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered."*
- Colossians 3:19 *"Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them."*
- Ephesians 5:25 *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her," ... vs. 29* *"For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church."*

# Temperate – Self-Controlled

- Temperate ~ to being restrained in conduct, *self-controlled, level-headed* (BDAG)
- Self-controlled ~ to having one's emotions, impulses, or desires under control, *self-controlled, disciplined* (BDAG)
- Paul brings his body under subjection
  - 1 Cor 9:24-27 *"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."*

# Sober-minded

- to being in control of oneself, *prudent, thoughtful, self-controlled* (BDAG)
- This is referring to someone's judgment or thinking being clear often translated sensible or prudent (having good sense)
- the Hellenic model is avoidance of extremes and careful consideration for responsible action: ... (Aristotle) the prudent person is intent on the what, the how, and the when of doing what should be done; (BDAG)

# Not Self-willed

- **Self-willed ~ *self-willed, stubborn, arrogant* (BDAG)**
- **A self-willed person may be someone who has to have their own way or is arrogant. They may be viewed as overbearing or as dictators.**
- **Peter describes those who walk according to the flesh as self-willed people.**
  - *2 Peter 2:9-10 "then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,"*