

GODLY ELDERS & THE LOCAL CHURCH

(1 Timothy 3:1-7)

4. The IMPORTANCE & BIBLICAL QUALIFICATIONS of an ELDER /PASTOR/BISHOP (3:1-7)

a. The *scriptural structure* of a local church when fully developed consists of _____, with the _____ and _____. (Philippians 1:1)

b. The *role* of the elders in a local church is to “_____ the flock of God.” (1 Pet. 5:1-2)

c. The *responsibilities* of the elders involve:

1) _____ - as a pastor is to feed the flock of God sound biblical doctrine with application. (1 Tim.4:6, 11, 13, 16)

2) _____ - as a pastor must carefully guard and watch over the flock of God for those dangerous predators that would harm them spiritually. (Acts 20:28-32)

3) _____ - as a pastor needs to engage in a ministry of intercessory prayer for people’s needs. (Acts 6:4; Col. 4:12)

4) _____ - as a pastor must personally model the biblical truths he publicly teaches. (1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Peter 5:2-3)

5) _____ - as a pastor must be involved in personal contact in addressing people’s needs. (1 Thessalonians 2:7-12)

6) _____ - as a pastor must exercise oversight and leadership as it relates to the needs, ministries, and direction of the church. (Heb. 13:7, 17, 24) The elders’ responsibility to exercise authority within the local church has been delegated by Christ (as Head of the Church) and must be within the parameters and principles of the Scriptures (which are the final authority for all faith and practice). Though the elders have the position of spiritual leadership in an assembly, they must have the mental posture of being the servants of all.

- Should a local church deeply appreciate their godly spiritual leaders? (1 Thess. 5:12-13)

d. The *scriptural qualifications* of an elder (1 Timothy 3:1-7):

1) The *biblical criteria* is **NOT** a person’s _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.

2) Some *general observations*:

a) The qualifications apply to _____ only who have been _____. (2:4-6)

b) The qualifications apply to _____ only. (2:11-14)

c) The qualifications are a _____, not a maybe. (3:2)

- d) The qualifications stress _____, not _____.
- e) The qualifications over-riding requirement is _____, not perfection / sinlessness. (3:2a)
- f) The qualifications evaluate the pastor's life _____, not where he may have been in the past.
- g) The qualifications touch upon _____ areas of a potential elder's relationships & character.

3) The *specific qualifications* of an Elder:

- a) As to his inner compulsion: _____... *"if a man desires..."*
- b) As to his walk: _____... *"blameless"*
- c) As to his marriage: _____... *"the husband of one wife"*
- d) As to his thinking: _____... *"temperate"*
- e) As to his judgment: _____... *"sober-minded"*
- f) As to his orderliness: _____... *"of good behavior"*
- g) As to his benevolence: _____... *"given to hospitality"*
- h) As to his ability with God's Word: _____... *"able to teach"*
- i) As to his self-control: _____... *"not given to wine"*
- j) As to his disposition: _____... *"not violent"*
- k) As to his motivation: _____... *"not greedy for money"*
- l) As to his treatment of others: _____... *"gentle"*
- m) As to his getting along with others: _____... *"not quarrelsome"*
- n) As to his finances: _____... *"not covetous"*
- o) As to his home: _____... *"one who rules his own house well"*
- p) As to his growth: _____... *"not a novice"*
- q) As to his testimony: _____... *"a good testimony among those who are outside"*

- What are some implications and applications regarding...

- ... these qualifications?
- ... the candidating process?
- ... the number of elders?
- ... the training of pastors?
- ... the qualifications of missionaries?
- ... the selection of elders?