

Titus 1:6–7

What a Man Mustn't Be in His Own House if He Is to Govern Well in God's House

Thursday, August 24, 2023 • Titus 1:6–7

Questions from the Scripture text: What is the first qualification of an elder (v6)? What is the second thing he must be? How many wives may this man have? What type of children should he have? Into what categories mustn't they fall? What is the elder called in v7? What qualification from v6 must continue in his ministry? What relation does his office have toward God? Not living according to whose pleasure/will? What must he not become quickly/easily? What must he not be constantly alongside/given to? Also not what? And not characterized by what?

How do we know whom Christ has called to be an elder? Titus 1:6–7 looks forward to the second serial reading of in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **we may recognize Christ-selected elders by the Christ-supplied grace of being Christ-obsessed.**

The apostle had opened the letter by pressing upon Titus how as God did what He had promised from eternity, He was using His slaves, in His order for the church, to accomplish His purposes by His grace. So, the natural question is: how do we know which ones are His slaves for the eldership? And the answer, which seems obvious after hearing it, is: by His giving them by His grace (cf. v4) the qualities they must have in order to be a good bishop/overseer (n.b. "must be" in v7). What are these qualities?

Blameless, v6, 7. Above reproach. No ungodliness in his manner or conduct gives accusers something to latch onto. Even his family knows him to be godly enough that accusations are untrue before God. He is of a *deservedly* high reputation of character. This is repeated both in front of the man's conduct in the home (v6) and what he mustn't (v7) and must (v8) be.

Husband of one wife, v6. A "man of one woman." Committed to monogamous marriage, and especially his own, if he is married. He is faithful, honors marriage, and is committed to the purity of the marriage bed (cp. Heb 13:4 as part of the 13:1–6 character of the Heb 13:7,17 elder).

Having faithful children, v6. The children share the faith of their father. They are not categorized by those who know them as unsaved (more literal than NKJ's "dissipation") or ungovernable ("insubordination"). He is a graced man, whose use of the means of that grace the Lord Himself has blessed to his children.

Steward of God, v7. One who acts in another One's house. And this "other One" is God! Behind this word, then, is humility, carefulness, diligence, zeal, responsibility, accountability, service, treasuring.

Not self-willed, v7. Literally not self-pleasing. He lives to please Another. This dovetails with "steward of God" to give the picture of a man who is Christ-obsessed: Christ-serving, Christ-pleasing.

Not quick-tempered, v7. He is not someone in whom the heat of anger appears easily, nor does it rise quickly once it is there. This indicates a man whose instability comes from trust and pleasure in himself rather than in the Lord.

Not given to wine, v7. Literally "not alongside wine" or "not attended by wine." He employs wine in the right way, as a gift from God for various specific uses and benefits. It is not his constant companion. We should apply this principle to any self-indulgence. That would indicate a man living by his own impulses.

Not violent, v7. Not controlled by "force". The word describes a man who brute-forces things. He interacts with those over whom he has some controlling advantage, and he unhesitatingly uses it. It could be literal strength, in which he is physically violent. Or, it could be a position of authority or wealth. It could even just be skill in manipulating others. Such a man is a bully and unfit to do the work of shepherding. He probably thinks it's best for everyone if he is in charge. He may indeed desire to be an overseer (cf. 1Tim 3:1), but the church must avoid having him as one.

Not greedy for money, v7. The word is a combination of the word for "shameful" and "gain." It is not actually specific to money, although money is a good example. The idea is that he does not see personal gain of any kind as an end in itself. Whether it's money, pleasure, praise, or comfort, it must not be the thing that a man is always looking for. Someone who is always seeking how to profit from a situation is self-interested, not Christ-interested and others-serving.

The church is Christ's flock to be shepherded, God's house to be overseen. There is no room in her eldership for the self-obsessed. Only for the Christ-obsessed. And we must always pray and labor that by the Lord's using them, every member would become Christ-obsessed as well.

In which of the areas above do you most need to grow? Try asking your spouse/parents the same question about yourself. If you are a male, why may it be especially important for you to grow in it?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for giving Your Son to be our Chief Elder and our King, who is the Son over Your household. Forgive us, O Lord, and help us, for we are not like He is. We are often ungodly so that others might rightly blame us. We do not honor marriage like we should. We forget that our household is Christ's and that the church is His household. So, we often live to indulge our wills, our passions, our pleasures, our power, or our property. It is dreadful, O Lord, how quickly we slide back into serving created things, rather than You, the Creator, who are blessed forever. So, we cling to You through Christ, asking that You would forgive us, and that You would use Your means to grow us in likeness to Him, which we ask in His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP73C "Yet Constantly I Am with You" or TPH446 "Be Thou My Vision"

For more Hopewell @Home devotionals, please visit hpwl.org/hah

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Titus chapter 1 verses six through seven. These are god's words. If a man is blameless the husband of one wife, Having faithful children. Not accused of dissipation or insubordination. For a bishop must be blameless. As a steward of god. Not self-willed, not quick. Tempered not given to line.

Not violent, not Greedy. For money. So far the reading of god's inspired and And air. It worked. So, we're still But we're coming off of verse 5, in which Paul had tied. The plan of god to Redeem for himself. The elect. Was promised to who within god before time began.

There's been accomplished by christ and it's being proclaimed in preaching and teaching. In which god our savior jesus christ. Is Uh, preached and talked as god, our savior. And jesus christ, sustains but richer and hearer. By his grace and his mercy and his peace. And so, He's the one who commands apostles.

He's the one who commands, paul. He's the one who commands diverse. He's the one Who commands the elders? That Titus is to appoint in every city. And you see immediately That elder, although it comes from a word that means. Older people. Does not mean in this context older people because these are ones who are appointed.

They don't get there by reaching a certain age. And so, the Grounds upon which a man would be appointed an elder. Or the qualifications that a man must have in order to be appointed elder. Are given. In verses 6 through 9. Which we take half this week, and Lord willing half next week.

But you see? Now, what the man is like, in his home, in verse 6, because He needs to be that in the household of god. Verse 7 is not just an elder but he's an overseer.

In god's house. So, he's Under god. Overseer. As we'll get to. In verse 7.

Within this. Helps us in verse 6 to think about how to apply. We're not just given instructions here for studying the men of the church in case. Uh, there ever is occasion in which elders are to be appointed that we would be able to recognize the ones that God has called true.

That is an application. It's actually Uh, a rather small application. Well, not small A rather. Uh, unusual application rare. There's the word. It's a rare application because you're not always appointing elders in the church. It is an application for how all elders are to be. Uh, but we're noticed in verse 6.

We're talking about how all men ought to be. With men are not being like this, and there will be no elders and an elders like this. He's showing Uh, what every husband must be. What every father must be with every man. Must be. So here is something. For the boys, especially the men.

Uh, to aspire to. It's also something that's Helpful for the young ladies, many of these qualifications are going to be An old ladies. That many of these. Qualifications are going to be. The character qualities that apply to all believers and even when they don't, Not necessarily apply to all believers when they're specific to men specific ozone's, big specific to fathers.

They're still instruction for considering what a man ought to be. Uh, so that one great way of Of. Putting out any Dreamy. Imaginary. Well in your head romantic flare-ups. Is just Set the man against the qualifications here, and if he's not these things, he's not the husband that you want.

He's not the father that you want for your children, and just execute that thought ruthlessly. Use whatever. Don't execute the person in your head. Execute the romantic. The romantic idea in your head. Um, that way. Um, there are other Ways then. Yeah. Not that you should ever allow your.

Uh, your heart to get inflamed about someone, but if they're disqualified, then you're not even. Going through the process of. You considering whether they are. Husband material, which When you get to that age. Of starting to consider whether people or husband materials to do that, considering Especially with your father, with your mother, not in your head.

And let them. Play the executioner, then. With you and help you with that. But all that to say, That we have instruction here. That. All men should have aspire to and what boys. Are working on growing up into if you're not. Working. On growing up into the things. Over seven, you will not become the husband and father.

That you ought to be. In verse 6. Now, you're not suddenly become these things. You know, there's not a moment that you become a man. Despite, you know, people's

There's a way of thinking that is becoming popular in some of our circles that there need to be these rights of passage, where you could say now, you're a man. You should seek to be. Growing into. Being a man. From your early boyhood.

So what must this man be? Well, the first thing you must be is he must be blameless. In other words, there's no ungodliness. In his manner, or in his conduct. That gives accusers something to latch onto. And if i'm going to use this, Of ungodliness those who know him, particularly the, those who are involved in the rest.

Of verse 6. That they are.

Well, they would know that such an accusation is wrong. He's not the sort of man who Uh, Someone accuses him of ungodliness and his wife and children have to hold their tongue. Because they know that it's even worse. Than he's been accused of. Here's someone who If he's accused of ungodliness.

His wife and children. Would know their heart and their hearts that That's just not true about him even more than that. God. Wouldn't know this about him. God speaks this way. About. Job, for instance, Others, which i was. An example, he's not sinless. He knows he's not sinless. Throughout the book.

With his friends that use him. Of. Claiming to be sinless. He makes a distinction and We often cries out to god, that if God deals with him according to what he deserves you perish. That his hope is in grace. He is blameless. The man. What do we blame us?

We must be my most if he's going to be appointing elder. He has a deservantly high reputation of character. In other words, This is. His blame us in his conduct in the home. Number six. He's blameless and the things that he isn't. Um, the bad qualities that he doesn't have or seven.

He's famous. The qualities that he must have received. And he's blameless in his doctrine. Verse 9. Bad theology is immoral. It is actually the most immoral thing. It's wrong thinking about god. It's not like there's a theology and morality that are two different things. And so it has to be blameless.

And In all three of those. But what he isn't what he is in his theology. Second thing we see is that he is a man of one woman, this means he has to be a man. That should be obvious. We live in. Sad days when that's not obvious. There's a man of one woman.

He has committed. To marriage, generally being between one, man, and one woman and to his own marriage being one, man. And one woman. He is faithful in his own marriage. He honors, others. Marriages. And teaches people to do the same. It is important to him. That the marriage bed, be highly regarded and kept pure.

Many. This is one of the The applications that hebrews 13 makes generally to the church before saying, In verse 7 that they are. To submit themselves. To those who rule over them, who have spoken, the word to them. The outcome of whose faith. They know and would follow well, part of the outcome of that faith.

Is that? Purity in marriage. In all marriages, in particularly his own. Is important to him. And so there's a strong connection there between the elder. And, He was 13 verse 7. Is also to have faithful children. Remember in first Timothy 3, which we're going through again in The sabbath school.

That the, the children submit. And they submit. With all reverence. They're happy to submit. Joyful, joyous. Holy Uh submission. In this case, They are children. Who share the faith of their father? Those who know them, do not Categorize them as unsaved. Um, The word that's translated. Dissipation here. And, Thank you.

And the New King James actually gives, A footnote with a couple more. Suggestions the debauchery or incoritability? Uh, literally it's it's unsaved and not. Categorized as unsaved, or Ungovernable. The, the reason i'm using the word categorized, Is because That. A fairly literal translation of the word accused here. So, you Their children, who Act like believers.

They don't trust. They don't just share the faith, the profession. Of those father, their father's faith. They are acting more and more. According to The faith. So, they're not categorized as unsaved, or Ungovernable. This, not accused of dissipation, or In subordination.

That don't just have a father who knows lead? That they display themselves as children, who know? How to be led. All of this means. That their father is a man of

grace. And that the lord has blessed. His employing, the means of grace with his children. First to Bring them to faith and then To grow them in faith.

So very controversial verse. Sadly in our days because there are many. Who are? Ordained to the eldership and even the ministry. Um, Whose children? Do not share the faith of their father. And, Either in profession or perhaps. Only in profession but not in life.

But these are the lord's qualifications. The lord is doing the work in the lord's church by the lord's grace. That's the entire context. And in which This is set. So, those are Even. Even before you get to specific characteristics, A man of deservedly high reputation. A husband of one wife committed.

In his marriage. And having faithful children.

In verse 6. Well then. This is because the bishop must have that deservedly high reputation verse 7. Of course, Um, It was tied to verse 6, but you see the first characteristic convert 7 Saying this is not something just that gets you in. This is something that the ruler must continue to be.

And so, the The grounds for appointing. In verse 6 is explanation of the end of verse 5 there. Um, are not just grounds for appointing, they are Uh, The describe the necessary ongoing conduct. Of the one who has an overseer. Well, what does he ever see he oversees God's house?

The word steward means someone who And forces, the laws of the house that the order Of the house, someone who governs The orderliness of the house. That's not his house. This word is used, especially for someone who Is employing someone else's role in someone else's. Instructions. The one who is an administrator over.

A house. So He must be a steward of god. This means he knows the church is not his house. Let's god's house. He's not trying to enforce his way. He teaches and leads in god's way, he's not coming up with his ideas. For the church. He's studying the lord's ideas for the church and carrying them out, he knows.

That his position is not one of creativity. You know, there's wisdom and skill. Um, but that which he does is given to him. By the one to him. The house belongs. It's one of the reasons why. Um, You know, someone asks about a church Uh, that Um, they're going to visit or God forbid, that they're moving or wondering if it's a good church to Uh, for them to join if they move and there's a pastor of vision on the staff.

God has given us a pastor of vision, it is the lord jesus christ. The ruler that elder the overseer, the minister and the pastor. They are all there to. Uh, carry out. Someone else's vision. They are a steward. Of the house of god. And so there's humility under god, it's carefulness.

That he would know exactly what the the lord says to do. There's diligence In being prompt. And endurance and continuing with it, there's zeal. Love for god. Not not a Um, a suit steward superficially. But from the heart responsibility, accountability service. Treasuring that which belongs to god and somebody else's house, taken care of it.

All of those things.

It is. Especially indicative of a man who Has disquality when he believes. That his household is also gods and not his own. Now, there's more that A household. Does the church does? But, And still you considered himself a steward clear. Where they will? New King James's not self-willed. It's very literally not self-pleasing.

It's not live to please himself. He lives to please another That, which is true of his Um, That's, which is true of his conduct in the church or his view. Of his role in the church. That should apply to his own life. He'd use himself as god's, man. Maybe use his life as a stewardship is not pleasing himself.

He's pleasing God. Is. Obsessed with christ with serving christ, pleasing christ. And these two changes family. Of course you'd bring number six. To do the same that you would know it consider yourself Your own, but christ's own. This is why we rejoice with the dozens of time that the new testament says it.

To call ourselves bond slaves of the lord jesus christ, not living to please ourselves. Living to please him. He's not quick tempered. This is someone in him. The heat of anger does not appear easily. And it does not rise quickly. It's a man.

You know, when Anger appears easily arises quickly. That shows man, his instability comes from trusting himself rather than trusting the lord. And so things can go haywire quite quite quickly and so you responds with anger. Or pleasing himself rather than pleasing the lord. So, it's very quick to be offended and behalf of Things not going his own way or according to his own desires, or Or demands.

Someone who's trust is in the lord and to its pleasures and the lord. Doesn't mean they're never angry but it means it doesn't rise. From a passion. But that, it comes from a steady reason to commitment. To the lord himself. His anger will be more like the Lord jesus's.

Great. Indignations against those things that offend Against god's worship. Across glory. And of course God's law as well. Not given to wine, it's not a long side, wine or attended. By wine. Doesn't live for his own impulses. He's not ruled. By desires for other things. Not violent. It's not a man who brute forces things.

He probably recognized these as things we heard about. And, Set of school of the Lord's day for the first Timothy 3. They are the same words that we saw there, so he's not a bully who manipulates situations. To force to force this way.

He doesn't, he's not the sort of guy who thinks. The best thing for everyone is for him to be in charge. Such a main desires to be an overseer. But the church avoid having. Let someone who's opinion. Of. Every situation is. We just need to do what i say.

And the same word again as in first Timothy 3, the end of verse 7. Where it says not reading for money. So not. Not given to shameful gain. Not someone who has always looking to. Gain for himself. Yes, it can be money, but That can also be. Influence or Others esteem, or Relationships or

He's always self-interested. And, Whatever. Will it be in him? He's not ashamed of doing. So long as he gets advanced. So long as he gains,

So to summarize. Verse 7 is not. He is a self-forgettable man. Not a christ forgetful man.

This is what all. Of us men. Ought to be seeking by the lord's grace. That we may be the sort of husband, this sort of father, Whose ministry of the Lord blesses in the home. And then if the lord is pleased, For the good of his church. And to also give us such a ministry.

In his congregation. And i'm sure. Young ladies can see how important it is. Their future husband would be such a man. And many of these things, of course, that they themselves. Would have in their own character. Let's play pray that the lord would give it to us. Our father in heaven.

One hand for us, it is very convicting to read. Of what a man or to be.

Immediately. Oh lord, we're amazed by your patience with us. And we thank you for your long suffering. You're forgiveness. But we thank you also that. When we read about, what a man ought to be, we know that This is what christ is and has been In our place. So, we rejoice over you, lord.

Jesus your righteousness. Let me, thank you also that this is Certainly, what we shall be when You are done with us. So we especially now look to you for the work of your spirit in us. That we would be a self-forgetful people who live as belonging to you. And for your pleasure.

And, Not to indulge ourselves, especially not to be. Controlled, by Any addiction? Give us to be controlled by your spirit. We ask in jesus name.