

The Qualifications of an Elder

I Timothy		Titus		Interpretation/Description
3.1	Desires the office of an Elder			Someone who has “set their heart” on being an Elder in the local church. To earnestly desire and to long for (in a positive manner)
3.2	Blameless	1.6	Blameless	No culpability before the law; not guilty of any crime for which he may be brought before the court
3.2	Husband of one wife	1.6	Husband of one wife	Literally a “one woman man.” However, a man need not necessarily be married to qualify for the office of Elder. This qualification excludes a man who is divorced (if his wife is still alive) or divorced and remarried while his first wife lives This qualification obviously excludes a woman from holding the office of an Elder
3.2	Sober minded	1.8	Sober, just, temperate	Self-controlled as to opinion or passion. He should exercise mastery of his appetites and value freedom from enslavement that no bondage is yielded to
3.2	Of good behaviour			He behaves towards others with grace and respect in a self-controlled, sensible, reasonable manner, and exercises sound judgement.
3.2	Hospitable	1.8	A lover of hospitality	As an Elder he should be warm and welcoming to strangers/newcomers who enter the local church. His home should be open for ministry and he should love opportunities to entertain/receive guests at all times
3.2	Apt to teach	1.9	Able to exhort and convince those who speak against the faith (gainsayers)	The man who is an Elder must be a skilled teacher, particularly of sound doctrine and theology. He should have a thorough knowledge of the bible and be able to teach it to God’s people
3.3	Not given to wine	1.7	Not given to wine	Literally “not a drunkard” or one not addicted to or in habitual bondage to alcohol

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3.3	No striker	1.7	No striker	A man not prone to violence, physical or non-physical (i.e. verbal or emotional)
3.3	Not greedy of filthy lucre	1.7	Not greedy of filthy lucre	His life does not reflect a love of money and luxury or money earned in a dishonourable or dishonest way. He puts the Kingdom first and is a generous giver. He is not so money oriented that ministry issues revolve around this issue
3.3	Patient			Gentle, longsuffering and kind to those around him
3.3	Not a brawler	1.7	Not self willed, not soon angry	He is not harsh or mean spirited, but inclined rather to tenderness and encouragement. His words should never be acidic and hurtful or designed to degrade a fellow believer, but gentle and encouraging
3.3	Not covetous			Isn't jealous or desirous of what other people in the church might have in terms of possessions or abilities
3.4-5	One that rules well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity	1.6-7	Having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly for the Bishop must be blameless as the steward of God	The Elder is to be the leader of an ordered household with submissive (not perfect) children who regard the instruction of their parents. He is to be a loving and responsible spiritual leader who tenderly loves and respects his wife It is clear if a man cannot successfully rule his own household, how can he be expected to rule the household of God?
3.6	Not a novice			No man should be appointed to the position of Elder who is a recent convert or an immature believer. The reason is he may be lifted up with pride and fall into the snare of the devil
3.7	A good report of them who are without			The man occupying the office of Elder must be one held in respect by the non-Christian community in which he lives and works