

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELDERS

1. Text: Titus 1:5-9

2. Two lists of qualifications for church leaders are found in the New Testament: here and I Timothy 3:1-7 which we saw last week. Now we deal with this second list.

1. **Blameless (1:6,7)**

A. Description: not reproachable or open to censure, no charge of unfitness, no serious accusation or even change made. As a steward or manager or leader.

B. Danger: Not perfection. Not reputable or of honorable recognition.

2. **Husband one wife (1:6; I Timothy 3:2)**

A. Description: literally, "of one wife husband," Known for his fidelity to his mate, marriage to one woman.

B. Danger: polygamy, adultery, celibacy, unauthorized divorce.

3. **Having Believing Children (1:6)**

A. Description: His offspring has a committed faith in the Lord.

B. Danger: No accusation of dissipation or incorrigibility (incapable of correction or reform, impossible to control) and, secondly, rebellious, disobedient, not subject to rule.

4. **Not Self-willed (1:7)**

A. Description: stubborn, arrogant self-will, literally "self to please," dominated by self-interest, arbitrary, gruff, inconsiderate of others.

B. Danger: domineering, demanding, imposes own ideas, opinions, choices on others, forces his way or else. Terrible problem for church, especially combined with other flaws like 5 and 7. III John 9-10.

5. **Not Quick-tempered (1:7)**

A. Description: given or inclined to anger, cannot control temper, has "short fuse." No patience or long-suffering with others.

B. Danger: use of anger to dominate group. Easy to hurt and mistreat others. Makes for explosive, uncertain situations.

6. **Not Given To Wine (1:7; I Timothy 3:3)**

A. Description: literally, "not near or beside the wine."

B. Danger: Disconnect with numbers 1,10,11,14

7. **Not Violent (1:7; I Timothy 3:3)**

A. Description: tendency to verbal or physical violence, to strike out at others.

B. Danger: Combined with number 5 is a lethal combination.

8. **Not Greedy For Money (1:7)**

A. Description: not out for selfish, base, dishonest gain or advantage.

B. Danger: Greed can damage any person's ability and attitudes.

(Qualifications For Elders-Continued on back)

9. **Hospitable (1:8, I Timothy 3:2)**

- A. Description: literally, “lover of strangers.” He reaches out to others, welcoming, speaking to people, kind and warm, general friendliness.
- B. Danger: aloof, unfriendly, cliquish.

10. **Lover of Good (1:8)**

- A. Description: One word and literally “good lover,” and could refer to people or good in general. Positive, Optimistic. Philippians 4:8
- B. Danger: One who enjoys finding or seeing bad in people or things, “delights in dirt.” One who is negative, critical, pessimistic.

11. **Sober-minded (1:8; I Timothy 3:2)**

- A. Description: temperate, reasonable, sensible, sound thinker.
- B. Danger: impulsive, gullible, unreasonable, excitable, stubborn, close-minded, hardheaded.

12. **Just (1:8)**

- A. Description: upright with God and man. I John 3:7 He who practices righteousness is righteous (just). Fair and impartial in dealings.
- B. Danger: unjust, unfair, unprincipled in dealing with people.

13. **Holy (1:8)**

- A. Description: devout and pleasing to God. Observable holiness in a man’s life.
- B. Danger: Simply not showing a devoted spiritual way of life.

14. **Self-controlled (1:8)**

- A. Description: One in full control of himself, disciplined life.
- B. Danger: Someone who loses control and then says and does things unbecoming to a Christian and leader.

15. **Holding Fast The faithful Word (1:9)**

- A. Description: clinging to or devoted to the word of God so that he will be able by sound teaching to exhort (warn) and convict or convince or expose those opposing or contradicting the truth.
- B. Danger: a man unable to deal with false teaching and teachers.

Conclusion:

