

Appendix “A” - Elder Qualifications

Elders must be called to this vocation by God, which calling must be affirmed by others and be evidenced in the fruit of his life and ministry. In addition, he must meet the biblical qualifications of a pastor relating to (1) moral and spiritual character; (2) abilities; and (3) Spirit-given motivation (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:2-3).

1. MORAL AND SPIRITUAL QUALIFICATIONS

Most of the biblical qualifications relate to the candidate's moral and spiritual character qualities. Paul's lists in 1 Timothy 3:2-7 and Titus 1 :6-9 are representative, not exhaustive. In short, an elder must provide a model of Christian living for others to follow (1 Peter 5:3b).

The overriding character trait is "blamelessness" (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1 :6) "as a steward of God" (Titus 1 :7) i.e. as one who takes care of God's things. Obviously, blamelessness does not mean that one must never have done or said anything that is blameworthy since no one would then qualify. It obviously refers to his present condition.

The areas in which a man must be "blameless" are defined by the apostle Paul as:

a) His personal life

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| temperate; self-controlled | (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1 :8) |
| sober-minded; prudent; sensible | (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1 :8) |
| not given to wine- i.e. not a drinker. | (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1 :7) |
| not violent; not quick-tempered | (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1 :7) |
| not greedy for money | (Titus 1 :7; 1 Timothy 3:3) |
| gentle | (1 Timothy 3:3) |
| not quarrelsome | (1 Timothy 3:3) |
| not self-willed | (Titus 1 :7) |
| lover of what is good | (Titus 1 :8) |

b) His family life

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| husband of one wife | (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1 :6) |
| rules his own house well | (1 Timothy 3:4) |
| - he is the respected leader in his home and his children respect him | |

c) His spiritual life

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| holy | (Titus 1:8) |
| just | (Titus 1:8) |
| not a novice | (1 Timothy 3:6) |
| able/apt to teach | (1 Timothy 3:2) |

d) His relational/social life

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| a good testimony/reputation among those outside | (1 Timothy 3:7) |
| of good behaviour | (1 Timothy 3:2) |
| hospitable | (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1 :8) |

2. ABILITIES

An Elder must be able to teach and defend the faith (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1 :9). Thus, he must have applied himself for some years to the reading and study of Scripture, be able to discuss biblical issues intelligently and logically, have formulated doctrinal beliefs, and have the verbal ability and willingness to teach other people.

In addition, the pastor must have demonstrated a significant gift of leadership (Romans 12:8) - either in his own house (1 Timothy 3:5), if he is a married man with family, or in some other aspect of his life (Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Timothy 5:17-25; Titus 1 :5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-5).

Further, supported by the elders and pastoral staff, he should have the gift of administration (1 Corinthians 12:28) in order to adequately administer the affairs of the church.

3. SPIRIT-GIVEN MOTIVATION FOR THE TASK

The Holy Spirit alone must call this person to this office of the church (Acts 20:28), give him the personal desire to love and care for God's people (1 Timothy 3:1; 1 Peter 5:2), and empower him with spiritual motivation, gifts, and wisdom to carry out the task of spiritual and practical oversight of God's people, as a shepherd who serves God's people in an exemplary way (Acts 20:28-31; 1 Peter 5:1-3).