

BIBLICAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELDERS

Elder qualifications from 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9; 1 Peter 5:1-3

ABOVE REPROACH: Elders must live in such a way that they cannot be legitimately accused of habitual sin.

HUSBAND OF ONE WIFE: Elders, if married, must be men who have demonstrated a singular love, devotion, and commitment to their wives.

SOBER-MINDED: Elders must be able to think and judge clearly, recognizing the times in which we live.

SELF-CONTROLLED: Elders must be sober, sensible, wise, and balanced in judgment; not given to quick, superficial decisions based on immature thinking.

RESPECTABLE: Elders must demonstrate a well-ordered life and honorable behavior.

HOSPITABLE: Elders must be unselfish with their personal resources, willing to share their presence, their love, and their possessions with others.

ABLE TO TEACH: Elders must be able to communicate truth and sound doctrine in a loving way.

NOT A DRUNKARD: Elders must be free from alcoholic addictions, and willing to limit their liberty for the sake of others.

NOT VIOLENT OR QUICKTEMPERED, BUT GENTLE: Elders must be gentle, patient, and able to exercise self-control in difficult situations.

NOT QUARRELSOME: Elders must not be given to quarreling or selfish arguments.

NOT A LOVER OF MONEY OR GREEDY FOR GAIN: Elders must not be stingy, greedy, out for distasteful or dishonest gain, or preoccupied with amassing material things.

MANAGE OWN HOUSEHOLD WELL: Elders must have a well-ordered household and family life. Their children, if present, must be believers, obedient, and well-behaved.

NOT A RECENT CONVERT: Elders must not be new believers. They must have been Christians long enough to demonstrate the reality of their conversion and depth of their walk.

WELL THOUGHT OF BY OUTSIDERS: Elders must be well-respected by unbelievers and free from hypocrisy.

NOT ARROGANT: Elders must not be stubborn, proud, prone to force opinions on others, or abusive in their authority.

LOVER OF GOOD: Elders must desire to see the goodness of God in all people and situations.

DISCIPLINED: Elders must be disciplined to focus on their responsibilities, restrain fleshly desires, and cultivate godliness.

UPRIGHT AND HOLY: Elders must be pure of heart, living a life free from habitual sin, and growing in Christlikeness.

HOLDING FIRM TO THE TRUSTWORTHY WORD: Elders must be stable in the faith, firm in their convictions, and obedient to the truth of God's Word.