



Overseers and You

By Taylor Braswell on June 20, 2024

TODAY'S READING: 1 Timothy 3

I want to focus on the qualifications for pastors (overseer, elder, pastor, and bishop are all the same word in Greek) as seen in 1 Timothy 3. Also, to be clear, every qualification on this list applies to every Christian except for being able to teach.

- Above reproach: No one should be able to accuse you of anything inappropriate because your life is defined by habits that honor Christ. This means putting up boundaries that make it impossible to fall into temptation.
- Husband of one wife: Pastors should be faithful to one woman (their wife). This qualification rules out polygamy, and some would even argue that divorce would disqualify a man from being a pastor (obviously, context matters, and in any marriage, you are not in the wrong if your spouse was unfaithful and left you).
- Sober minded: This means not letting yourself be controlled by anything that would keep you from making Christ-like decisions. This would include being drunk or high.
- Self controlled: This implies being able to say no to things that are not beneficial for your walk with Christ and being disciplined enough to develop habits that help you grow in your walk with Christ.
- Respectable: This means showing honor to others and living in a way that honors God.
- Hospitable: Do you contribute to the needs of others?
- Able to teach: Pastors must be able to understand God's Word and explain it to others.
- Not a drunkard: When you get drunk, it shows you have no self-control, and it means you are addicted to something. Anything we are addicted to shows we are trying to get satisfaction from that rather than Christ. This also means you are not being sober minded.
- Not violent but gentle: If you are violent you have no self control. Christ is our example of meekness, and we should imitate Christ in our daily lives.
- Not quarrelsome: Obviously, people will argue with us if they hate God's Word, but we should not seek out arguments with others for the sake of arguing.
- Not a lover of money: Are you content in Christ, or do you need money to satisfy you? Pastors who wear designer clothes, have private jets, and multiple mansions need to choose another profession.
- He must manage his household well: This does not mean a pastor's children must be believers, as that is up to the Lord, but a pastor and any Christian parents should raise their kids to honor Christ.
- He must not be a recent convert: Pastors should have some type of spiritual training or time to grow spiritually before they jump into ministry. If you have been a Christian for more than a year, are you spiritually mature?

- Well thought of by outsiders: What do non-believers know about you? Do your neighbors and coworkers respect you, or do they think you are a jerk? Christians should love others.

PRAYER: God, thank You for pastors and mature believers who have invested in my life. By Your Spirit, continue to sanctify me so that my life reflects Christ in every area.

TOMORROW'S READING: 1 Timothy 4

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