

The Qualifications of Elders

1 Timothy 3:1–7 (NKJV)

This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. **2** A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; **3** not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; **4** one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence **5** (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); **6** not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. **7** Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Titus 1:5–9 (NKJV)

For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—**6** if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. **7** For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, **8** but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, **9** holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

Observations about Qualifications

- These are two different, independent lists of qualifications

Identical in 1 Tim. 3 and Titus 1

- A man
- Blameless
- Husband of one wife
- Sober-minded
- Hospitable
- Not greedy for money
- Not given to wine
- Not violent

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Parallel in 1 Tim. 3 and Titus 1

- Able to teach
- One who rules his house well
- Having children in submission with all reverence
- Temperate
- Not quarrelsome
- Able by sound doctrine to exhort and convict
- Having faithful children not in dissipation or insubordination
- Self-controlled
- Not quick-tempered

Qualifications mention only in 1 Timothy or Titus

- Desires the position
- Of good behavior
- Gentle
- Not covetous
- Not a novice
- Having good testimony from those outside
- Not self-willed
- A lover of what is good
- Just
- Holy

Observations about Qualifications

- These are two different, independent lists of qualifications
- They are the same in several important ways
 - The primary qualification in both accounts is “blameless”

Titus 1:5–9 (NKJV)

For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and **appoint elders** in every city as I commanded you—**6** if a man is **blameless**, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. **7 For a bishop must be blameless**, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, **8** but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, **9** holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

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Observations about Qualifications

- These are two different, independent lists of qualifications
- They are the same in several important ways
 - The primary qualification in both accounts is “blameless”
 - They both describe a Christian man who is blameless in character and family life
 - The same type of man would be appointed in Crete or Ephesus

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- They describe a Christian man who is blameless in character and family life
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- These are individual, not collective qualifications
- Most of the qualifications are straightforward to understand

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Titus 1:7 - For a bishop must be ... **8** ... hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, **self-controlled**,

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- They describe a Christian man who is blameless in character and family life
- A person must have these qualities before being appointed as an elder
- These are individual, not collective qualifications
- Most of the qualifications are straightforward to understand
- The family qualifications require close consideration