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.
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
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)

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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
Observations about Qualifications

• These are two different, independent lists of qualifications
• 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
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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