

**Elders #4**  
**Positive Qualifications #1**  
*1 Tim. 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-4*

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Last lesson covered negative qualifications. In this we will begin covering positive qualifications.
2. All are in present tense. What an elder must not “be” and what he must “be”

**1 Timothy 3:2**, A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

**Titus 1:6-7**, If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. 7) For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

3. The qualifications must be ever present. These are not what one should become, but what he is now and must continue to be.

**DISCUSSION:**

- I. He should desire the office of an elder.

**1 Timothy 3:1**, This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

**1 Peter 5:2**, Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

- A. It is a *good* work. While there are times of difficulty, overall his attitude should be that it is a good work.
  - i. Not with impure motives – which, if the other qualifications are met is not problem.
- B. “Not by constraint” - Some are pressured into the office.
- C. Again – it is present tense. When he loses the desire (permanently), he should no longer be an elder.

## II. Without Reproach – Blameless, (1 Tim. 3:2, Titus 1:6-7).

- A. What does this mean?
  - i. Thayer: “not apprehended, cannot be laid hold of, not open to censure, irreproachable, unprovable, unaccused.
  - ii. One against whom an evil charge cannot be sustained. One who is above and established charge
  - iii. Anyone can accuse. The question is, can it be sustained?

**1 Timothy 5:19-20**, Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. 20) Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

- B. It does not mean perfection

- i. Peter: Denied Christ, sinned publicly (Gal. 2:11-13). Later served as an elder.

**1 Peter 5:1**, The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

- ii. The question is whether or not one has truly repented.

### III. Temperate (vigilant) and sober minded

**1 Timothy 3:2**, A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

**Titus 1:8**, But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

#### A. The words...

- i. Temperate – (nephaleos) “sober, temperate, abstinent, especially in respect to wine, watchful, circumspect”
- ii. Sober minded – (sophrona) “prudent, of a sound mind, sensible.”

#### B. How they apply

- i. An elder to be ever on the watch, keenly aware of what is going on and what ought to be done.
- ii. One who governs well all of his passions, shows moderation in his life.

- iii. A man of learning and of a cultivated mind, soundness and good understanding.

#### **IV. Orderly or of Good behavior**

**1 Timothy 3:2**, A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

- A. “Kosmion” - seemly, of good conduct, respectable”
- B. The preceding “temperate and soberminded” pertain to the man's mind. This to his outward conduct.
- C. Barnes: “He should be a gentleman, not slovenly in his appearance or boorish and rough in his manners.”

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. As we began to see last week what an elder must not be, today we begin to learn what he must be.
  - (a) Able to accept the office willingly, having a desire for the “good” work.
  - (b) Without reproach – one against a legitimate charge cannot be sustained.
  - (c) Temperate and sober minded – serious, alert and watchful over himself and others.
  - (d) Of good behaviour
2. Our responsibilities, again... Study, pray and obey.