

A Study of the Eldership

Lesson 4: Qualifications for Elders: Positive Qualifications, part 1 of 3

Qualifications of Elders

- ✦ Relative: Qualifications one has, but in which he can and should grow and develop.
- ✦ Absolute: One either has or does not have
- ✦ All are in the present tense. They are what an elder 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;

Positive Qualifications

✦ He should desire the office

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;

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- ◆ “Not by constraint”
- ◆ No desire...not an elder (present tense qualifications)

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✦ Without reproach - blameless

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- ◆ Anyone can accuse.. .can it be sustained?

1 Tim. 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.

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- ◆ Anyone can accuse.. .can it be sustained?
- ◆ Does not mean perfection... Peter?

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:

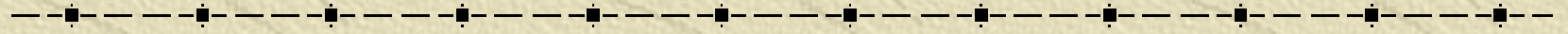
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- ✦ Temperate (vigilant), sober minded

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Titus 1:8



But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

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◆ Means: “sober, temperate, abstinent, especially in respect to wine, watchful, circumspect, prudent, of a sound mind, sensible.”

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◆ Application: Ever watchful, keenly aware of what is going on – one who governs his own life well

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- ✦ Orderly, of good behavior

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 - ◆ “Seemly, of good conduct, responsible”

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 - ◆ “Seemly, of good conduct, responsible”
 - ◆ Barnes: “He should be a gentleman, not slovenly in his appearance or boorish and rough in his manners.”

Conclusion:

✦ What an Elder Must Be

- ◆ He should desire the office
- ◆ Without reproach – blameless
- ◆ Temperate (vigilant), sober minded
- ◆ Orderly, of good behavior

✦ Our responsibilities: Study, Pray, Obey
(Heb. 13:17)