# QUALIFICATIONS FOR AN ELDER

*1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9*

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (1984)

When Paul writes to Timothy, he does not call these leaders "pastors." He calls them **overseers** (Greek *episkopos*) and **elders** (Greek *presbyteros*). Paul says that anyone who sets his heart on this "desires a noble task" (v1). These are the marks of a man God can trust to care for His church.

## CHARACTER *his self*

- Above reproach *v2*
- Temperate *v2*
- Self-controlled *v2*
- Respectable *v2*
- Not given to drunkenness *v3*
- Not violent but gentle *v3*
- Not quarrelsome *v3*
- Not a lover of money *v3*

## WITNESS *his name*

- A good reputation with outsiders *v7*
  *"so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap"*

## HOME *his family*

- The husband of but one wife *v2*
- Hospitable *v2*
- Manages his own family well *v4*
- Children obey him with proper respect *v4*
  *"If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?" (v5)*

## MATURITY *his walk*

- Able to teach *v2*
- Not a recent convert *v6*
  *"or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil"*

## TITUS 1:5-9 *"Appoint elders in every town" (v5). Paul adds:*

- A man whose children believe *v6*
- Not overbearing, not quick-tempered *v7*
- Not pursuing dishonest gain *v7*
- One who loves what is good *v8*
- Upright, holy and disciplined *v8*
- Holds firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it *v9*

## GO DEEPER

Taught in more detail in *The Commands of Jesus*:

**Part 11: *I'm Sending You Out***

**Part 35: *The Returning: Returning to Strengthen and Appoint Leadership***

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