

BIBLICAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELDERS

“Now the overseer then must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to much wine, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well, and see that his children obey him with proper respect ...He must not be a new convert... He must have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap” (1 Tim. 3:2-7).

“An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient...he must be blameless---not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to much wine, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold 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” (Titus 1: 6-9).

- Above Reproach Elders must be blameless, presenting no patterns of scriptural disobedience or grounds for accusation.
- Partner of But One Spouse Elders, if married, must be devoted spouses.
- Temperate Elders must be self-controlled, humble, free from excesses.
- Not Quick-Tempered Elders must be gentle and characterized by forbearance and tenderness---not having a quick temper. They must be able to exercise self-control and patience in difficult situations.
- Respectable Elders must demonstrate a well ordered life and good behaviour.
- Hospitable Elders must be unselfish with their personal resources. They must be able to share blessings with others.
- Able to Teach Elders must be able to communicate the truth of God and teach truth in a non-argumentative way.
- Not Addicted to Wine Elders must be free from substance addictions.
- Uncontentious Elders must not be given to quarreling or selfish argumentation.

- Not a Lover of Money Elders must not be stingy or greedy. They should be a model of giving.
- Manage Own Household Well: Elders must have a healthy family life.
- Not a Recent Convert Elders must not be new believers. They must have been Christians long enough to demonstrate the reality of their conversion and the depth of their spirituality.
- Good Reputation With Outsiders: Elders must be well respected by outsiders, and must be free from hypocrisy.
- Not Overbearing Elders must not be stubborn, insensitive or prone to force their opinions on others.
- Loves What Is Good Elders must desire the will of God in every decision.
- Just Elders must be fair and impartial. Their judgments must be based on scriptural principles.
- Devout Elders must be devoted to prayer, the study of Scripture and to the development of their spiritual life.
- Faithful to the Word Elders must be stable in the faith, obedient to the Word of God, and filled with the Holy Spirit.