

Biblical Qualifications to be an Elder/Overseer/Shepherd



I. WE MUST DO THIS SCRIPTURALLY

- A. In every congregation – a _____ number appointed (never just one)
- B. Each congregation was autonomous
- C. Paul appointed elders “in every church”. Acts 14:23
- D. “Elders” (“*presbuteros*”, presbyters) for they were _____ Christian men
- 1. Acts 14:23**
- E. “Bishops” (“*episkopos*”, overseers) for their task was to oversee the congregation.
- 1. Acts 20:28**
- F. “Pastors” (“*poimen*”, shepherds) for their task was to shepherd and feed the flock of God.
- 1. Acts 20:17,28; 1 Peter 5:1-2**
- G. Not three distinct offices, but different ways to describe the same men and their work.
- H. Elder qualifications according to Timothy and Titus.
- **Temperate –**
Self-denying, self-controlled; _____ over self
 - **Sober –**
Of sound mind, with mature judgment, self-restrained, one who is not under the control of passions
 - **Good Behavior–**
Well-mannered; well ordered life, _____
 - **He must not be a novice –**
Or a new convert
 - **He must not have quick temper –**
Not vengeful, hotheaded, or impulsive with his feelings
 - **He must not be self-willed –**
Or not _____, overbearing, and arrogant
 - **He must not be given to wine –**
One who does not drink wine and other intoxicating drinks
 - **He must not be a brawler –**
Or not one who is given to strife or apt to fight
 - **He must not be a _____ –**
Or not one who is quarrelsome, pugnacious or physically combatant, a man of peace
 - **He must not be greedy –**
Or not one who gets money by dishonorable means, free from _____ of money
 - **He must not be covetous –**
A lover of money and material things of the world
- **He must be husband of one wife –**
Male (husband) having one wife
 - **He must have _____ children –**
Who faithfully love and obey God
 - **He must be of good behavior –**
Dignified, modest, godly behavior
 - **He must be vigilant –**
Alert and _____ over his own conduct
 - **He must be patient –**
Man of mild and kind demeanor
 - **He must be just –**
Upright and fair in his dealings with others
 - **He must be _____ –**
Not unkind, or harsh, or unfair
 - **He must be devout–**
Fully dedicated and consecrated to the Lord
 - **He must be able to --**
Exhort and refute the “gainsayers” And with sound doctrine protect the flock against false teachers
 - **He must be blameless –**
Not perfect, but “ _____”, a man against whom no charge of immorality, or holding false doctrine is alleged
 - **He must love what is good–**
Not seeking to participate with evil men in their schemes, love what God defines as good
 - **He must be given to _____ –**
Concerned about the welfare of others both strangers and brethren
 - **To take heed to himself –**
Be humble, dedicated, and Christ-like
 - _____ **well his own family –**
Doing this he gains experience to rule over the “family of God”
 - **Hold fast to the Word –**
Respect it, teach it, stand for it, and defend it
- I. **Every qualification of an elder is a qualification that a Christian _____ have, except:**
- Male, married, believing (faithful) children, desire the work

NOTES: