

Elder Qualities

Part 1 – Overview

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Titus 1:5-9

Wrong Approach

- Exhaustive checklist
- Subjective suggestion
- Resume of credentials
- Portrait of a perfect man

Quality of a Man's Character

- Qualities vs. qualifications
- What do we tend to focus on?
- There is more to evaluate than the “quantifiable facts”

Quality of a Man's Character

- Two separate lists
 - Timothy in Ephesus (1 Tim. 1:3)
 - Titus in Crete (Tit. 1:5)
- Neither is exhaustive or strictly identical
- But they are identical *in character*

Comparing Elder Qualities Lists

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Titus 1:6-9

Unique Qualities

Respectable
Gentle
Peaceable
Not a new convert
Good reputation outside

Identical Qualities

Husband of one wife
Prudent
Hospitable
Not addicted to wine
Not pugnacious

Synonymous Qualities

Above reproach	Blameless
Temperate	Self-controlled
Able to teach	Able to exhort and refute
Free from love of money	Not fond of sordid gain
Manages children well	Having faithful children

Unique Qualities

Not self-willed
Not quick-tempered
Loving what is good
Just
Devout

What kind of man
would Timothy
choose?



What kind of man
would Titus
choose?

A Mature Christian Man

- Not a “super-Christian”
- Unique expectations:
 - Marriage / children (1 Tim. 3; Tit. 1)
 - Able to teach (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:9)
 - Not a new convert (1 Tim. 3:6)
- Every other quality is commanded of all Christians!

Elders	Christians
Above reproach	2 Peter 3:14
Self-controlled	Gal. 5:23
Prudent	Eph. 5:15
Respectable	Rom. 12:17
Hospitable	1 Pet. 4:9
Not addicted to wine	Rom. 13:13
Not contentious	Gal. 5:20
Gentle	Gal. 5:23

Elders	Christians
Not self-willed	1 Cor. 13:5
Not quick-tempered	Eph. 4:26
Loves good	Rom. 12:9
Just	James 3:17
Devout	1 Pet. 1:15
Peaceable	Matt. 5:9
Free from love of money	1 Tim. 6:10
Good reputation outside	Col. 4:5

A Man Above Reproach

- The quality emphasized 2x in each text (1 Tim. 3:2,7; Tit. 1:6,7)

It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires *to do*.² An overseer, then, must be **above reproach**, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,³ not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.⁴ *He must be* one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity⁵ (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),⁶ *and* not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.⁷ And he must have a good reputation with those outside *the church*, so that **he will not fall into reproach** and the snare of the devil. (1 Timothy 3:1-7, NASB)

For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, ⁶ *namely*, if any man is **above reproach**, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. ⁷ For the overseer must be **above reproach** as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, ⁸ but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, ⁹ holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

(Titus 1:5-9, NASB)

A Man Above Reproach

- The quality emphasized 2x in each text (1 Tim. 3:2,7; Tit. 1:6,7)
- Not sinless perfection but wholeness (Gen. 6:9; Job 1:1; Luke 1:6)
- Would we disqualify Peter? (1 Pet. 5:1)
- ***Proven character*** (1 Tim. 3:4-5; Tit. 1:6-7)

Who a man is becomes evident by
the fruit he bears in life.
What fruit is seen in yours?