

Developing Elders, Deacons, & Members Eldership in the New Testament

(1 Timothy 3:1-7)

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Eldership: A plurality of qualified men who serve as the lead overseers of the church, teach and preach the Word, protect the church from false teachers, exhort and admonish the saints in sound doctrine, pray for the sick, and judge doctrinal issues. Elders are men who are well-known by the community, have proven integrity, and are doctrinally sound. Elders must be men who have personal self-discipline and maturity, and have the ability to relate well to others, and to teach and care for them.

Plurality: Acts 15; Acts 20:17,28; James 5:14; Acts 14:23; 1 Timothy 5:17; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:5; 1 Peter 1:1; 5:1

It is a trustworthy statement (or faithful is the saying): if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do (1 Timothy 3:1).

Qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3:2:

Overseer episkope - Used interchangeably with elder (Titus 1:5, 7). To look after, to consider, examine, provide covering for. In ancient Greek society to be an overseer meant to be a guardian, controller, ruler or manager

Above reproach anepileptos - All-encompassing qualification. To be free from any offensive disgraceful character blight. To be beyond blame when accused

Husband of one wife (mias -one, gynaikos - wife or woman, andra - man) - Devoted mind, and heart to his wife. A Aone woman-type of a man@.

Temperate nephalos - To be self-controlled (not led by emotions or lusts). Freedom from debilitating excesses or rash behavior.

Self-Controlled - sophron - To have a sound mind (able to focus and not be distracted easily). To have good judgment, and common sense.

Respectable kosmios - To have a well-ordered life (a life that is not characterized by chaos)

Hospitable philoxenos - To love strangers. To not be clickish. “In His mysterious ways, God works through the guest-home relationship to encourage and instruct His people”

Alexander Strauch, Biblical Eldership

Able to Teach didaktikos - Skill in Teaching

1. Thorough knowledge of the Scripture (Joshua 1:1-9)

2. A readiness to teach (2 Timothy 2:1-2, Titus 1:9)
3. The ability to communicate (1 Timothy 4:13)
4. Consistent practice of the Scripture (Ezra 7:10)

Not addicted to Wine - No known Idolatry (addiction)

1. Temporal enjoyment vs. idolatry (1 Corinthians 6:12-13)
2. Idolatry in this sense is when we seek and desire the relief, comfort or pleasure of things above God
3. Idolatry is loving the good by scorning the best

Not Pugnacious plektes - To strike (a violent person)

Gentle epiekes - To be lenient, willing to yield (doesn't have to have their own way).
To yield when yielding is possible

Uncontentious amachos - To not be quarrelsome

1. 2 Timothy 2:24-25

Free from the love of money aischrokeredes - To desire money more than God

1. Hebrews 13:5
2. 1 Timothy 6:7-9

Manage his own household well proistemi - To stand before, to rule, to be diligent (to be the spiritual leader in one's family)

Keeping his children under control with all dignity - To cause children to obey in a graceful manner. "Any man unable to govern his children graciously and gravely by maintaining good discipline, is no man for government in the church." Donald Guthrie

1. Ephesians 6:4
2. Titus 1:6
3. Verse 5: "Care for"- the loving, personal attention in meeting church needs

Not a new convert neophutos - To be newly sprung up (a baby christian)

Good reputation with those outside the church - One who knows and is respected for their faith with unbelievers

1. Do I demonstrate integrity in the workplace?
2. Do I work hard in my job (Colossians 3:22-23)?
3. Do I trying to be known and get to know others?
4. Am I real about my faith and about life?