

Major Event: The Church

Lesson 5: Elder Qualifications for the Church

Central Text: 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

Characteristics/qualifications of leadership in four categories (Comparing 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1):

Personal Character

- Temperate
- Prudent
- Not addicted to wine
- Not pugnacious (a violent temper)
- Gentle and patient
- Uncontentious (not quarrelsome)
- Free from the **love** of money (not simply free FROM money)
- Not a novice / new convert
- Not self-willed (the same attitude of Christ; not my will by God's will)
- Not quick-tempered
- Loving what is good
- Fair and honest
- Devoted to God in worship
- Self-control

Public Testimony

- Above reproach (not sinless perfection, but no questionable conduct that would bring legitimate dispute- to a certain degree, this controls the rest of the list)
- Hospitable (not just teach, but cares for people)
- Good reputation outside the church

Family

- Husband of one wife
- Manages his household well
- Children should live under control

Ministry

- Able to teach the word (and be teachable)
- Able to refute false teaching
- Holding fast to sound doctrine (teach the entire realm of doctrine with accuracy)

Elders are not to lord their authority over the flock, the flock is still to recognize their authority:

Hebrews 13:17 - Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, with the result that they may do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

Duty of the Elders in relation to the sick / weary (James 5:13-15):

Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

Suggested attributes and characteristics of God:

Sovereignty - Christ is the Head of the body, the church.

Omnipotence - Nothing can overpower Christ's church.

Suggested reading for parents and child at home:

1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1