

Appendix A **Elder qualifications**

1. Aspires to the office (1 Tim. 3.1)

To stretch one's self out in order to touch or to grasp something, to reach after or desire something

2. Above reproach (1 Tim. 3.2 & in Titus 1.6 & 8 – “blameless” in the NIV)

Literally, nothing to take hold upon

Not open to censure, irreproachable

Self-disciplined, curbing one's desires and impulses

3. Husband of one wife or faithful to his wife (1 Tim. 3.2 & Titus 1.6)

Literally, a one-woman man

Nothing inappropriate with other women

Divorce is not grounds for automatic disqualification for an elder or a deacon, and this applies to either the man or his spouse. The issue is an extensive track record of faithfulness in all areas of marriage with a man's current wife.

4. Temperate (1 Tim. 3.2)

Literally, sober

Not given to extremes

5. Prudent or self-controlled (1 Tim. 3.2 & Titus 1.8 – “sensible” in the NASB)

Literally, of a sound mind, in one's senses, curbing one's desires and impulses, self-controlled, temperate

Able to think clearly; knows how to deal seriously with important issues

6. Respectable (1 Tim. 3.2)

Literally, well arranged, modest

Dignified, orderly

Decent in the whole of his appearance, speech, conduct, and general lifestyle

7. Hospitable (1 Tim. 3. 2 & Titus 1.8)

Generous to guests; willing to open his home

Others-centered

8. Able to teach (1 Tim. 3.2 & expounded upon in Titus 1.9 – specifically, to encourage and refute)

Skillful in teaching

Has a firm grasp of the Bible and historical Christian doctrine and is able to explain that to others

9. Not addicted to wine or not given to drunkenness (1 Tim. 3.3 & Titus 1.7)

Not drunken; lifestyle free of addiction

Denying excesses that may obstruct clear thinking

10. Not pugnacious or not violent (1 Tim. 3.3 & Titus 1.7)

Not contentious; abstaining from fighting; does not resort to violence either publicly or privately

Not quick-tempered

11. Gentle (1 Tim. 3.3)

Literally, equitable, fair, suitable

Gracious with those who oppose him

12. Peaceable or not quarrelsome (1 Tim. 3.3)

Not contentious, not a readiness to argue

Peaceful

13. Free from love of money or not a lover of money (1 Tim. 3.3 & in Titus 1.7 – not fond of sordid gain or not pursuing dishonest gain)

Not greedy; not constantly dissatisfied with material property or an unusual desire for more material goods

14. Manage his household well, keeping his children under control with dignity or manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (1 Tim. 3.4 & Titus 1.6 – have children who believe and not accused of dissipation or rebellion or a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient)

to set over, to be over, to superintend, preside over, to be a protector or guardian, to give aid, to care for, give attention to

15. Not a new convert or not a recent convert (1 Tim. 3.5)

16. Good reputation with those outside the church or good reputation with outsiders (1 Tim. 3.6)

The testimony of one's character is transparent and consistent

Respected among those outside the church

17. Not self-willed or overbearing (Titus 1.7)

Literally, self-pleasing, arrogant

Not determined to have his own way in every matter

18. Not quick tempered (Titus 1.7)

Prone to anger; not someone who has a constant, simmering anger and is quick to unleash it; anger as a characteristic

19. Loving what is good (Titus 1.8)

Loving goodness, demonstrated by pouring his time and resources into it

20. Just or upright (Titus 1.8)

Rendering to each what he is due; passing a just judgment on others, whether expressed in words or shown by the manner of dealing with them; in a right relationship with others

21. Devout or holy (Titus 1.8)

Undefiled by sin; free from wickedness; religiously observing every moral obligation; pure, holy, pious; in a right relationship with God

22. Self-controlled or disciplined (Titus 1.8)

Controlling one's self, temperate; a healthy, biblical understanding of self