

The Key Passages on Qualifications for Elders

1 Timothy 3:1-7

1 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to (desires, KJV) the office of overseer (church leader, NLT), he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach (blameless, KJV), the husband of one wife (faithful to his wife, NIV, NLT), sober-minded (temperate, NASB95), self-controlled (prudent, NASB95; sensible, LSB, CSB), respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard (addicted to wine, NASB95; excessive drinker, CSB), not violent (bully, CSV; hot-headed, AMP; pugnacious, NASB95) but gentle, not quarrelsome (considerate, LSB), not a lover of money (greedy for wealth, AMP). 4 He must manage (lead, LSB) his own household well, with all dignity (worthy of respect, NIV) keeping his children submissive (under control with all dignity, CSB), 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit (conceited, NASB95; lifted up with pride, KJV), and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil (fall under the same judgment as the devil, CSB).

Titus 1:5-9

5 This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— 6 if anyone is above reproach (blameless, CSB; unquestionable integrity, AMP) the husband of one wife (faithful to his wife, NIV), and his children are believers (faithful, CSB, LSB) and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination (wild and disobedient, NIV; accused of dissipation or rebellious, NASB95) . 7 For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach (blameless, KJV). He must not be arrogant (overbearing, NIV; self-willed, NASB95) or quick-tempered or a drunkard (not addicted to wine, NASB95; not given to drunkenness, NIV), or violent (bully, CSB) or greedy for gain (dishonest gain, LSB), 8 but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled (sensible, NASB95) upright (just, NASB95), holy, and disciplined. 9 He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke (refute, CSB; reprove, LSB) those who contradict it (oppose it, NLT).

1 Peter 5:1-5

1 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion (not grudgingly, NLT) but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain (dishonest, NASB95), but eagerly (eager to serve God, NLT); 3 not domineering over (lording over, NASB95) those in your charge (entrusted to you, CSB), but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders (accept the authority of, NLT). Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

2 Timothy 2:22-26

22 So flee youthful passions (things that stimulate youthful lusts, NLT) and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 23 Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies (ignorant disputes, CSB; ignorant speculations, NASB95; unedifying, stupid controversies, AMP) you know that they breed quarrels (fights, NLT). 24 And the Lord's servant (bondservant, NASB95; slave, LSB) must not be quarrelsome but kind (gentle, CSB) to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil (when wronged, NASB95; not resentful, NIV) 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

A Master List of Qualifications for Elders	
Above reproach/blameless/unquestionable integrity	Good testimony among unbelievers
Husband of one wife/faithful to his wife	Not arrogant/overbearing
Sober minded/temperate	Lover of good
Self-controlled/prudent/sensible	Upright/just
Respectable	Holy
Hospitable	Disciplined
Able to teach/ Able to give instruction in sound doctrine	Holds firmly to a sound Gospel
Not a drunkard/addicted to wine/excessive drinker	Able to gently rebuke those who oppose it
Not violent/hot-headed/a bully/pugnacious/quick tempered	Able to shepherd/exercise oversight
Gentle/Kind to everyone	Eagerly desires to serve God
Not quarrelsome/considerate	Not domineering/lording it over those in your charge
Not a lover of money/greedy/greedy for dishonest gain	An example to the flock
Must manage/lead his household well/with all dignity/worthy of respect	Flees youthful lusts
Keeping children in submission/under control with dignity/children not wild, rebellious, and insubordinate	Pursues righteousness
Not a recent convert	Avoids foolish controversies/ignorant speculations/unedifying disputes
Not puffed up/conceited/lifted up with pride	Patient in enduring evil/not resentful