

When is a Man Qualified for
Pastoral (Elder) Leadership?

Many Contexts, Same Goal

- Make Disciples
- Train Leaders
- Ordain 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.

“Paul really knew what he was talking about—not just as a list of prerequisites to become an elder but as a catalog of the kind of virtues that elders need day in and day out to be healthy, effective elders in the long haul for the joy of the church.”

-David Mathis

Review the Master List of Qualifications

The Qualifications for a Pastor/Elder Summarized:

- He is a mature Christian.



The Qualifications for a Pastor/Elder Summarized:

- He is a mature Christian.
- His testimony is consistent.



The Qualifications for a Pastor/Elder Summarized:

- He is a mature Christian.
- His testimony is consistent.
- He is able to teach.



The Qualifications for a Pastor/Elder Summarized:

- He is a mature Christian.
- His testimony is consistent.
- He is able to teach.
- He is willing to guard the gospel.



The Qualifications for a Pastor/Elder Summarized:

- He is a mature Christian.
- His testimony is consistent.
- He is able to teach.
- He is willing to guard the gospel.
- He is willing to humbly serve Christ



Observations

- 1. A pastor/elder is simply an ordinary example of what all Christians are supposed to be.**

Observations

2. A pastor/elder's life is one that can be copied/imitated.

Observations

3. Any pastor/elder should be able to mentor another man into spiritual leadership.

Observations

4. God's standard for what qualifies a man to be a pastor/elder is much different from what is often assumed in churches around the world today.

Observations

5. Men can be disciplined into spiritual leadership as described by these passages in every possible cultural context.

Discussion Questions:

What seems to be missing from these NT passages describing the qualifications of pastors?/elders



Discussion Questions:

How does what
the NT teaches
and doesn't
teach
encourage you
in training men
for ministry?



Discussion Questions:



How should the obvious emphasis on a transformed life affect how we understand leadership training?

Discussion Questions:



What do the qualifications of elders in these passages assume about the local church's involvement in training?

Discussion Questions:

Are academic degrees required to be an elder?



Discussion Questions:

How much Bible knowledge is required to become an elder?



Discussion Questions:



Is Greek or Hebrew
a requirement for
being an elder?
Encouraged?

Discussion Questions:



Should mastery of a language other than their own be necessary for most men being trained for ministry?

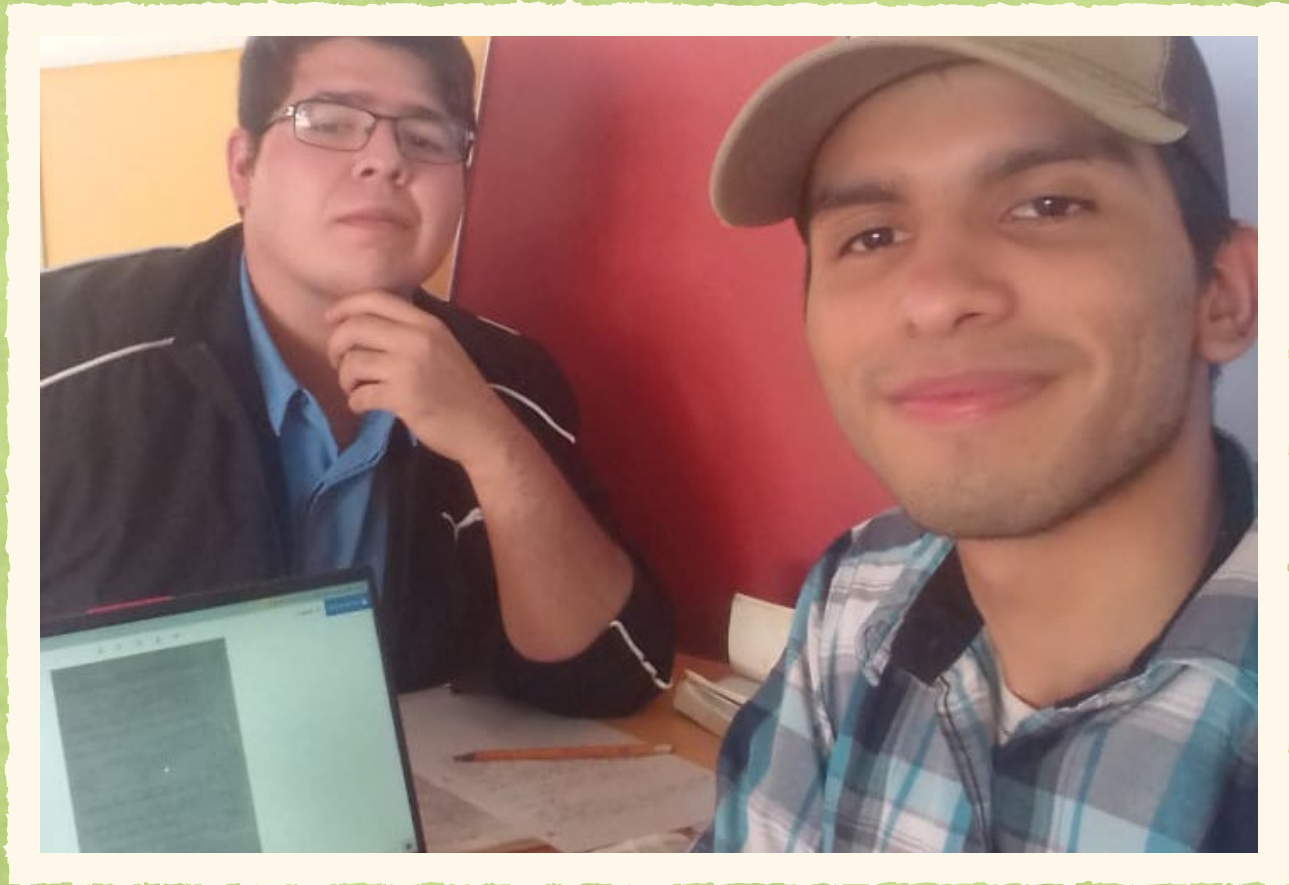
Discussion Questions:

What does the inclusion of qualifications for the wife of deacons indicate regarding qualifications for an elder's wife?



Discussion Questions:

What are the implications of these passages about the level of knowledge a man must have before ordination?



Discussion Questions:



What are the implications of these passages about the level of knowledge a man must have before ordination?

When is a Man Qualified for
Pastoral (Elder) Leadership?