The Qualifications of Elders – Part 1
1 Tim. 3:1-6; Tit. 1:5-11

Introduction:
A. Elders must not be chosen by human leadership standards, but by the scriptural standard.
B. The qualifications are neither optional nor flexible – a must (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:7).
   1. How many must one have? All.
   2. May not have all in the same degree. (Some absolute, some relative).
C. The qualifications can be grouped into six classes: Physical, Experience, Ability, Character, Reputation and Habits.
D. We will deal with three classes in this lesson and then three in the next lesson:

Discussion:

I. Physical Qualifications.
A. An elder must be a man (1 Tim. 3:1; Tit. 1:6) – not “she” elders.
B. An elder must be a husband (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:6).
   1. No bachelor.
   2. No polygamist.
   3. With faithful wives (1 Tim. 3:11)
C. An elder must be a father (1 Tim. 3:4; Tit. 1:6).
   1. Of faithful (believing) children (cf. Acts 2:44 for the word believing)
   2. Of well-behaved children.
   3. Of one or more children – plural is so used when number in indefinite.
      a. “Will those with children please sit near the back”
      b. “Children” meaning one or more in Bible (Gen 16:1; 21:7; Eph. 6:4; Mk. 12:19; Tim. 5:10; Matt. 19:29).

II. Experience.
A. No novice/new convert (1 Tim. 3:6).
   1. Does not have experience or knowledge.
   2. May be tempted to let eldership go to his head.
B. Experience in ruling his house well (1 Tim. 3:4, 5).
   1. Proves ability to rule by how well he rules his house.
   2. Proves ability by having led his children into being Christians.
   3. If elders wife dies, has proven himself capable of ruling.

III. Ability.
A. An elder must be apt (able, skilled) to teach (1 Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:9).
   1. Must know enough to teach.
   2. Must be able to teach.
   3. Elders may have varying degrees of ability and skill – Still either able or not.
   4. Elders need to be apt to teach in order to supervise teachers/preachers in congregation.
B. An elder must be able to refute error (Tit. 1:9-10; Acts 20:28-31).
   1. Well enough grounded to spot violations it Biblical principles.
   2. Courageous enough to stand up against unscriptural innovations into the church.
C. Able to lead/rule well.

Conclusion:
A. Elders are experienced family men of ability.
B. Next week: Character, reputation and habits.