The Qualifications of an Elder – Part 2

1 Tim. 3:1-6; Tit. 1:5-11

Introduction:
A. Last time we noticed the physical qualifications, experience and ability of an elder.
B. This time we will notice the character, reputation and habits of an elder.
C. All of these allow for varying degrees and all (except desire office) to characterize all Christians.
D. One overlooked qualification that does not fit into any of our six classifications – Desire the office.
   1. A pious desire to do the work the Lord wants done.
   2. Not to be forced upon him or “put into the office” against his wishes.

Discussion:
I. Character
A. Holy (1:8) – Not sinless – but sanctified – lives apart from sin – does not continue in it.
B. Just (1:8) – Fair, impartial.
D. Of good behavior (3:2) – Kosmion – orderly – modest – dignified – courteous, etc.
E. Lover of good (men) (1:8) – Loves all good people and deeds – encourages them.

II. Reputation.
A. Blameless (without reproach) (3:2;1:7)
   1. Cannot be rightly accused of reproachful or sinful conduct.
   2. Not sinless, but blameless – not one who openly practices sin.
B. Of good report (3:7)
   1. Recognized as a good and upright man even among non members.
   2. General reputation in community as good and honorable man.
C. Lover of hospitality (3:2;1:8)
   1. Shows kindness and love toward strangers and guests – friendliness.
   2. Not merely out of a sense of duty, but given to it – really loves it.
   3. Not hospitality should be done grudgingly (1 Pet. 2:9).
E. Not given to filthy lucre (3:3; 1:7; 1 Pet 5:2) – – greedy for dishonest or unethical gain.
F. Not covetous (3:3) – Not greedy – hoards money – Stingy.
G. Not a striker (3:3; 1:7) – Not one who ready to fight, quarrelsome

III. Habits
B. Temperate (1:8) – Self-Control (Passions, tongue and temper)
C. Not given to wine (3:3;1:7) – Not subject to wine – difference in Bible wine and today’s wine.
D. Not soon angry (1:7) – Able to control his temper – able to be angry and sin not.

Conclusion:
A. Which one of these should a Christian not have?
B. Elders as leaders surely must have them in an exemplary degree.