

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.
- C. Patient (3:3) – Considerate – fair – mild – gentle.
- 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).
- D. Not a brawler (3:3) – wrangler – quarrelsome – noisy – boisterous.
- 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

- A. Vigilant (3:2) – Watchful - alert (cf. Acts 20:28-31) – on top of things.
- 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.
- E. Not self-willed (1:7) – Stubborn – arrogant – self-pleasing – unyielding (in matters of judgment)
- F. Sober (3:2;1:8) – sober minded – calm – even tempered – circumspect – cautious – rational.

Conclusion:

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