

## Titus

### Lesson #7, Chapter 1:7-9

Be sure to budget enough time for this lesson as we look at this list of elder qualifications. Amazingly, there is more than enough for us to apply to our lives too! Ask the Lord for His help and insight as you work on this lesson.

1. Elders or overseers are to be above reproach as God's stewards. In our last lesson we talked about the different terms for elder and what it means to be above reproach. Be reminded again that this quality is of absolute necessity in the life of an elder. Why is the overseer to be above reproach?
2. Define *steward* from verse 7 (NIV translates steward as "entrusted with God's work):
3. How do the following texts give greater breadth to the meaning of stewardship? See Luke 12:35-48; 1 Cor. 4:1-2; Gal. 4:2; 1 Pet. 4:10.
4. What do the leaders of a church need to keep in mind as they care for the flock (Heb. 13:17)? How would that reminder be an *aid* to their ministry?
5. Now we begin our look at all the things an elder is *not* supposed to be from verse 7. Look up the definition for *self-willed* (also translated arrogant, overbearing).
6. How is a self-willed man like a horse in Ps. 32:9?

7. Why does God prohibit church leaders from being self-willed? What would it be like to follow a self-willed shepherd?

“Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Thy name give glory because of Thy lovingkindness, because of Thy truth (Ps. 115:1).”

8. Next we read that an elder is not to be *quick tempered*. What do the Scriptures say about a quick tempered man? See Prov. 14:17; 15:18; 16:32; 29:11; James 1:19-20.
9. Next we see that an elder is not to be *addicted to wine* (literally “continually alongside of or in the presence of wine”). We know from Eph. 5:18 that all believers are “not to get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.” However, in the Scriptures there are added injunctions for spiritual leaders. See Lev. 10:9-11; Prov. 31:4-5; Rom. 14:21; 1 Tim. 3:3. Why does God place further constraints upon leaders?
10. An elder is not to be *pugnacious* (also translated *not violent or a striker*). What does that mean? Though it is hard to imagine a church’s leaders having a fist fight; it is possible that someone may have a pugnacious attitude—fighting with words rather than fists. What does 2 Tim. 2:24-25 have to say about that?
11. An elder is not to be *fond of sordid gain* (also translated *not greedy for money, not pursuing gain*). What does the Bible say about spiritual leaders and money? See Matt. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 9:11, 14; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 6:5-10; Titus 1:10-11; 1 Pet. 5:2-3.
12. How could the ministry be used as a means to gain wealth?

13. Now we come to the six positively stated qualifications for an elder. He is to be *hospitable*. How would maintaining hospitality be a way to check the greed of gaining wealth?
  
14. To show hospitality literally means to be a lover of strangers. This characteristic *must* be exhibited in a church's leaders, but it is in no way *limited* to its leaders. Everyone is commanded to show hospitality. What do you learn about hospitality from the following verses: Rom. 12:13; Titus 3:12-14; Philem. 22; Heb. 13:1-3; 1 Pet. 4:9; 3 Jn. 5-8?
  
15. What spiritual principle is behind showing hospitality? See Matt. 25:31-46.
  
16. How do *you* practice hospitality toward others? What hinders you from showing hospitality? What area would you like to improve? What do you need to do to start working on those areas?
  
17. How would you describe a person who is characterized as a *lover of good things* as seen in our list of qualifications for elders?
  
18. Philippians 4:8 reveals the mind of those who love what is good, "*Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.*" If you desire to be a lover of what is good, what things can't you dwell on, ponder or stew over?

19. What does *sensible* mean? (Since this characteristic is also mentioned in chapter 2 we won't dig much deeper at this point).
  
20. Define *just* and *devout*:
  
21. The Greek forms of these 2 words are also used in 1 Thess. 2:10. As you read 1 Thess. 2:9-12, what do you notice about who was acting that way and how they were demonstrating it to others?
  
22. Finally, an elder must be *self-controlled*. Are any of these qualities possible without exercising some measure of self-control? Why?
  
23. List five or more benefits of self-control.
  
24. Following the list of godly characteristics an elder is to possess, we see 3 final qualifications. What are they (verse 9)?
  
25. What do we see in the book of Titus that reveals the need for elders who can *exhort* in sound doctrine and *refute* those who contradict?
  
26. An overseer is to *hold fast the faithful word*. How does the phrase "holding fast the faithful word" reveal what the heart of an elder should be? For added insight read Deut. 32:46-47.

27. How do *you* hold fast to the faithful word?
  
28. What is your favorite verse for reminding you to hold fast to and cling to God's word?
  
29. Whew! What a lot of information! What one thing have you found to be interesting or noteworthy from this lesson? What is one thing you realize you need to work on in your own life?