

# QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF AN ELDER

(I Timothy 3:1-7)

- Introduction:
1. Every Christian ought to be a friend to elders because of the work they do (Hebrews 13:17).
  2. It is a noble work that ought to demand our respect and cooperation (I Thessalonians 5:12-13).
    - a. James A. Garfield, the 20<sup>th</sup> President of the United States stated, "I am stepping down from the eldership into the presidency of the United States."
  3. As important as the eldership is, you could rightly imagine that there are some qualifications that must be met before assuming this work.
  4. In this lesson, we will look at these qualifications and some of their duties.

## I. The Qualifications Of Elders

- A. The qualifications of elders can be classified into four separate categories
  1. Experience.
  2. Reputation.
  3. Character.
  4. Ability.
- B. While many of these qualifications are relative (individuals possessing them to some degree or another), they are "*musts*".
  1. A church is not to settle for the men who come nearest these qualities.
  2. They must be possessed.
- C. (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:9).

## II. The Responsibilities Of Elders

- A. The eldership is not some sort of "*honorary position*" given to reward men for their years of hard work, but it is a work in and of itself.
- B. Their work is to be confined to the local congregation over which they rule (I Peter 5:2).
- C. The following are responsibilities that elders have:
  1. To take heed to themselves (Acts 20:28).
  2. To be men of God's word (Acts 20:32; Titus 1:9).
  3. To be examples to the flock (I Peter 5:3).
  4. To take the oversight (I Peter 5:2).
  5. To take heed to the flock (Acts 20:28).
  6. To rule well (I Timothy 5:17).
  7. To feed the flock (Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:1-2).
  8. To watch for wolves (Acts 20:29-30).
  9. To stop the mouths of vain talkers (Titus 1:11).
  10. To decide differences in the church (Acts 15:6).
  11. To admonish the church (I Thessalonians 5:12).
  12. To support the weak (Acts 20:35).
  13. To watch for the souls of the church (Hebrews 13:17).

- Conclusion:
1. What an honor and privilege it must be to serve as an "*undershepherd*" to the Chief Shepherd (I Peter 5:4).
  2. Consider seriously this noble work and begin preparing yourself to answer God's call for men.

# THE QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS

## (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)

<b>Experience</b>	<b>Reputation</b>	<b>Character</b>	<b>Ability</b>
Husband Of One Wife	Blameless	Temperate	Able To Teach
Rules Well His Own House	Of Good Testimony Of Those Without	Sober Minded	Able To Exhort In Sound Doctrine
		Of Good Behavior	
Has Children In Subjection		Hospitable	Able To Convict The Gainsayers
		Not Given To Wine	
Has Believing Children		Not Violent	
		Not Greedy For Money	
Has Children Not Accused Of Riot or Unruly		Gentle	
		Not Quarrelsome	
		Not Covetous	
Not A Novice		Not Self Willed	
		Not Quick Tempered	
		A Lover Of Good	
		Just	
		Holy	
		Self Controlled	