



# Questions Often Asked

## *“Questions Concerning The Eldership”*

- Introduction:
1. There are a number of questions that are frequently raised concerning the qualifications of elders.
  2. On one hand, you have some who would like to loosen the requirements, and on the other hand you have some who would like to add a few extra requirements of their own.
  3. Let's go to the text tonight and let it answer our questions.

### **I. Do Elders Have Any Authority?**

- A. Some have incorrectly argued that Christ alone has authority in the church (Matthew 28:19).
  1. Paul said he had authority (2 Corinthians 10:8; 13:10).
- B. Elders do have authority.
  1. (Hebrews 13:7,17).
  2. Bishop - means overseer. There is inherent authority in overseeing.
- C. The Elder's authority falls in the realm of judgment, expediency, and matters of opinion.

### **II. How Do We Understand The Qualification, “Husband Of One Wife?”**

- A. (1 Timothy 3:2).
- B. Could a divorced man serve as an elder?
  1. Two issues must be considered (Scripture & Expediency).
    - a. A Scripturally divorced and remarried man is the husband of one wife.
    - b. However, what is lawful may not be expedient (1 Cor. 6:12).
- C. What If his wife dies?
  1. Some qualifications are necessary for initial consideration but are not necessary for sustained qualification.
  2. Of course, moral qualifications must last throughout the duration of his service.
  3. But some qualifications are necessary for initial consideration, but need not be maintained.
    - a. What if an elder's children die?
    - b. Must an elder sustain throughout his eldership, children in his house, under his oversight?

### **III. How Do We Understand The Phrase “Having His Children In Subjection?”**

- A. (1 Timothy 3:4-5; Titus 1:6).
- A. Is a plurality of children demanded from the text?
  1. While it could do nothing but help prove his qualification, I do not believe it is necessary.
    - a. (Genesis 21:7).

b. (Leviticus 25:41).

c. (Ephesians 6:1).

B. What if a child leaves home and becomes unfaithful.

1. The text requires that an elder rule his "own" family well.
2. While in some cases, it may not be expedient for an elder with an unfaithful adult child, the text does not demand that they resign.

- Conclusion:
1. We need to give great care to appointing men to the eldership.
  2. But at the same time, we also need to give great care that we do not press our opinions that are not taught from the text itself.
  3. The future of the church greatly depends on the quality of leaders it has.
  4. May we encourage our leaders and aspire to such a noble work.