Elders: General & Personal Qualifications

1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9
Is Leadership - Decision Making?

Decision #1

Decision #2
Jesus - The Elder’s Example of His Main Responsibility
God’s Elders Are Prepared By The Holy Spirit
Elders Are Elders

Because They Are Elders!
Qualifications Are . . .

• Given in 1 Tim. 3:1-7 & Titus 1:5-9

• Marks of Spiritual Maturity

Measure of God’s Leader . . .
Qualifications Cover All Areas

Titus 1:8

Home

Individual

Community

Church

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Part I – General Principle
“Above Reproach”

ανεπιλημμένον = “one cannot be validly accused”

There are no valid damaging accusations against him . . .

- no valid criticism

This Is The Requirement
- Specifics Follow
Part II – Personal Marks

Specifics
“Husband of one wife”

μιας γυναικος ανδρα = “one woman man”

Major views:

• Not a polygamist
• Not a widower
• Never divorced
• Not single
• Completely devoted to his wife

1 Tim. 3:2
He is not a new believer . . .

• This eliminates the new Christian from leadership.

• Jesus did not start ministry until He was 30 years of age.

• “Elders” were typically someone of an older age.

μη νεοφυτον = “not newly planted”

1 Tim. 3:6
“Temperate”

νηφαλιον = “sober, wineless”

He is “clear headed.”

• Avoids excesses and extremes
• Not out of control
“Prudent”

σωφρωνα = “well-disciplined, self-controlled”

He wisely establishes priorities . . .

“the idea of a correct way of reasoning, but also a sense of moderation . . .”

emphasis on his thinking

C. Spiq.
"Respectable"

κοσμίον = “well-behaved, modest, respectable”

He is respected . . .

- His life is well ordered and honorable.
- The person is well-behaved or virtuous.
- He is not a ball of confusion.
- He is virtuous.

emphasis on his conduct

1 Tim. 3:2
“Hospitable”

φιλοξενον = “stranger love”

He loves strangers . . .

• This person shares his stuff
• He loves strangers
• He invites others into his home

1 Tim. 3:2
“Not Addicted To Wine . . .”

μη παροινον = “not given to wine, not a drunkard”

He does not have a reputation of drunkenness. . .

• He is not controlled by wine. . .
• This is an issue of self-control . . .
αφιλαργυρον  = “not a lover of money”

He does not love money . . .

• He is not greedy.
• Money is not a major focus of his life.
• He does not pursue money.
“Not Fond of Sordid Gain”

μη αισχροκερδη = “not fond of sordid gain, greedy for money, dishonest gain”

He honestly earns his living . . .

• He is honest in his work.
• He does not cheat his customers.
• He does not cheat the local and federal governments.
• He does not use the church.
“Devout”

οσιος  = “holy, devout, dedicated”

He lives a holy life . . .

• The elder lovingly seeks to please the Lord.

• He is committed to the Lord.

• His pattern of life is dedicated, holy living.
He “observes the right” . . .

- **Personal** - The elder obeys the laws of the land, and seeks to bring out the good in his family.

- **Others** - This elder seeks justice for all, including the widows, orphans, and poor.
“Loving What Is Good”

φιλαγαθος = “loving good things”

He “loves the good” . . .

• He must understand what is good.
• He loves the good such as:
  ➢ Being generous
  ➢ Honest people
God’s Expectation Is High

God’s High Standard For Leaders  ➔  Godly Patterns For All
Elders Should Be Followable  ➔  Hebrews 13:7