Elders: Qualifications Related To Responsibilities

1 Timothy 3:2, 4-5; Titus 1:9
Chicken Ranch
Specific Duties of Elders

1. Teaching 1 Tim. 5:17
3. Care Acts 20:35
4. Pray healing of the sick James 5:13-16
5. Church discipline Matt. 18:15-20
6. Manage money Acts 11:30
Broad Responsibilities of Elders

Oversight

Shepherding

Priority
οικου καλως προισταμενον = “house well managed”

He caringly-manages his family.

- Προιστημι has the sense of leading, control, and caring for.
- Same word used in 1 Tim. 5:17
- More than just organization - has a shepherd’s heart for his family.
“Children under control”

τέκνα . . . εν υποταγῇ = “children in submission”

His children obey him with respect . . .

• His children are in submission.

• His children respect him and do not despise or hate him.

• Titus 1:6 illustrates this principle . . .
“Children are well behaved”

μη εν κατηγορία| ασωτίας
απνυποτακτα = not in accusation of
dissipation or rebellion.

His children are not in rebellion . . .

• Children usually reflect their parents

• Rebellious children *usually* imply that there is something seriously wrong in the home.

Titus 1:6
“Children Who Believe”

τεκνα ἐχων πιστα = “children have faith”

His children believe . . .

• His children hold to the faith.
• This implies his children share his faith and are born again.

Titus 1:6
Qualifications Related To Shepherding
“Able to Teach” - part 1

διδακτικὸν = “skilled at teaching”

• Occurs in only two N.T. passages
  • 1 Tim. 3:2
  • 2 Tim. 2:24

• Definition rests heavily on Greek lexicons
“Able to Teach” - part 2

διδακτικον = “skilled at teaching”

“skillful in teaching”
- Philo (Congr. 35; Praem. Poen. 27)
- Arndt, W. F. A Greek-English Lexicon
- Calvin, John. 1 Timothy
- Colin Brown, DNTT
- Danker and Bauer’s Greek-Lexicon

“apt and skillful in teaching”
- Thayer’s Greek Lexicon
“Able to Teach” - part 3

“one qualified to teach”
- A. T. Robertson, Word Pictures

“not merely given to teaching, but . . . skilled in it”
- Kenneth Wuest, 1 Timothy

“both the willingness and the skill and ability to teach”
- Heibert, First Timothy

“highly skilled teacher”
- John MacArthur, 1 Timothy

“skilled teacher”
- J. N. D. Kelly, The Pastoral Epistles
He is faithful to the truth . . .

- He knows it
- He believes all of it is the truth.
- He holds to sound teaching (2 Tim. 2:2)
- He is diligent (2 Tim. 2:15)
“Able to exhort . . . refute”

παρακαλεω . . . αντιλεγω = “to call or exhort . . . speak against or contradict”

He is able to defend the Word of God . . .

• He has a good grasp of scripture.
• He can explain the major doctrines of scripture to others
• He can identify error.

Titus 1:9
Perspective From 1700 A.D.

... one that is able to instruct others, and who has a facility or aptness to it, neither an ignorant nor yet a lazy man.

Matthew Poole, 1700 A.D.
Perspective From 1840 A.D.

As the principal business of an [elder] is to teach, or to communicate . . . the knowledge of the truth, the necessity of this qualification is obvious. He is one . . . who is qualified to impart to others on the doctrines . . . and he is industrious, and self-denying, and loves to study in order to know God . . .

Albert Barnes, 1840 A.D.
This is something I emphasize, because I do not feel any man ought to be an elder in a church unless he can teach the Word of God. I used to say to my church officers that I wished it was possible to give a theological exam to each one of them to determine if he was qualified to be an officer.

- J. Vernon Mc Gee
Encouragements For Growth

1 John 2:12-14

Hebrews 5:11-14
Message of Hebrews 13:17

Elders . . . “Watch over your souls”

Believers . . . “be persuaded and yield”
How Shall We Respond?

1. Pray for guidance in selecting elders

2. Seek to become a “spiritual father in the faith”