



Congregational Organization

Qualification of Elders – Pt 2

Titus 1:5-11





Titles or Descriptions

- Elders, presbyters – a reference to their age, experience, maturity
- Bishops, overseers – describes their work
- Shepherds – illustrates their work



Qualifications vs. *Dis*qualifications

- There is an important attitude about these qualities.
- Are they given to qualify or disqualify men for service? – Titus 1:5
 - ILLUSTRATION: Recruiters vs. Human Resources
- **What does the Scriptures Say?** (Romans 4:3; Galatians 4:30)
 - Not, ‘What I think the Scripture means!’
 - If we make these more *lenient*, we are taking away from God’s word.
 - But, if we make them *stricter*, we are adding to God’s word!

What is the *Issue?*

- These are not **arbitrary qualifications**, they are logical!
- Each quality relates to his ***stewardship of the house of God.***
- They validate his ***right, ability and quality*** to collaborate a congregation of the Lord's church.
- **This is the issue!**



There **Six** Categories of Qualities

- **Preliminary (3)** – Qualities **preceding** consideration
- **Moral (15)** – Is this man *morally* suitable to oversee a local congregation?
- **Knowledge (4)** – Does this man have the **necessary knowledge** to shepherd a local congregation?
- **Managerial (8)** – Does this man have the **ability and experience** to manage the congregation?
- **Social (1)** – Will this be man *available* for the members of his local congregation?
- **Spousal (4)** – Is his spouse suitable?



A Suggested Approach

- Take each characteristic and turn it into a question.
- “... If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.”
- Does this man desire the position of a bishop?
- Some questions must be answered ‘yes’ or ‘no’.
- Others require some judgment.
- None of the questions should require *interpretation! I.e. “How fervently must he desire the position?”*
- ILLUSTRATION: “He must *desire* the position. (I think) if he desired it, he would have a resume’ prepared.”

Congregational Organization Qualification of Elders – Part 1



In our first lesson we reviewed the **Preliminary, Moral** and **Social** Qualifications.

In this lesson we will review the **Knowledge, Managerial** and **Spousal** Qualifications.



Knowledge Qualifications

Four Qualifications





Is He Able to Teach? (1 Timothy 3:2g)

- He does not have to be a preacher (1 Timothy 5:17)!
- He must be able to teach.
- There are many ways to teach (private, semi-private, public, writing, men, women, children, etc.; cf. Galatians 2:7-8; Acts 20:20)
- This also, is a *relative* term, some may teach better, some lesser, but all must be *able* to teach.

Is He Able to Exhort and Convict? (Titus 1:9b)

- This passage is not translated well in the NKJV.
- It is helpful to compare this with other translations.

holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

(Titus 1:9 NKJV)

Titus 1:9 in Five Translations

Bibles											
Compare	Parallel	ASV	ESV	ESV+	KJV	KJV+	NET	NET+	NIrV	NIV	NKJV
						God					
NKJV	ASV	ESV	NET	NIV	(none)	(none)	(none)				
9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.	9 holding to the faithful word which is according to the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in the sound doctrine, and to convict the gainsayers.	9 He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.	9 He must hold firmly to the faithful message as it has been taught, so that he will be able to give exhortation in such healthy teaching and correct those who speak against it.	9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.							

Three Qualifications in One Verse (Titus 1:9 a, b, c)

a

He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught,

He must hold firmly to the faithful message as it has been taught,

He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught,

b

so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine

so that he will be able to give exhortation in such healthy teaching

so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine

c

and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

and correct those who speak against it.

and refute those who oppose it.

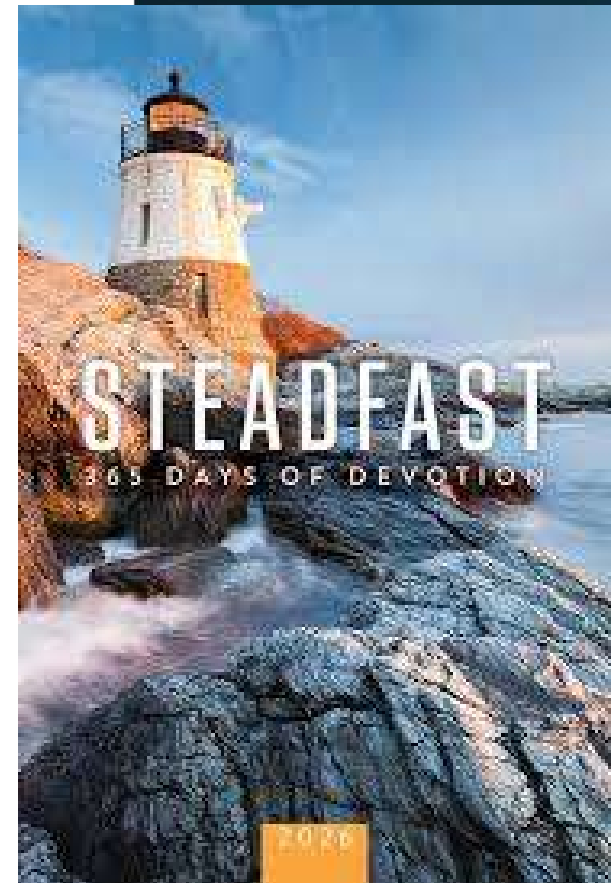
(Titus 1:9 ESV)

(Titus 1:9 NET)

(Titus 1:9 NIV)

Does He Hold Firmly to the Trustworthy Message? (Titus 1:9a)

- Steadfastness – Matt 6:24;
Luke 16:13; 1 Thess 5:14
 - Not double-minded, or easily swayed by error – cf. Eph 4:14
- Cf. 1 Corinthians 15:58;
Colossians 1:23; 1 Peter 5:9



Can He Encourage Others by Sound Doctrine? (Titus 1:9b)

- Exhort (*para kaleo*) to call near, that is to invite
- Sound Doctrine (*hugiaino didaskalia*) – healthy teaching

He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

(Titus 1:9 NIV)

Is He Able to Refute Those Who Oppose (Sound Doctrine)? (Titus 1:9b)

- Convict (*alegcho*) – confute
- Contradict (*antilego*) – dispute, refuse

He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

(Titus 1:9 NIV)

confute

AMERICAN 

 [kuhn-fyoot] / kən'fyut /

VERB (USED WITH OBJECT)

confuted, confuting

1 to prove to be false, invalid, or defective; disprove.

to confute an argument.

2 to prove (a person) to be wrong by argument or proof.

to confute one's opponent.

3 *Obsolete.* to bring to naught; confound.

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/confute>

Managerial Qualifications

Seven or Eight
Characteristics



Is He the Husband of One Wife?

(1 Timothy 3:2b; Titus 1:6b)

- Literally “man of one woman”
- It is generally translated “the husband of one wife”
 - It may also mean “faithful to his wife”.
 - Is his marriage “lawful”?
 - Is he a bigamist or polygamist?
 - (while legal in places, Christians are prohibited. 1 Corinthians 7:2)





Does He Rule His Own House Well? (1 Timothy 3:4-5)

- The key words are **rules** and **well**.
- Is He a *Successful Manager*?
 - Having his children in submission
 - With all reverence*
 - (for if a man does not know how to *rule his own house*, how will he **take care of the church of God**?)

Are/ Were His Children in Submission? (Titus 1:6)

- The Greek word used is *hupotage*’; which means **subordination, subject**
- *Does he manage his house* or **does his house manage him?**



Does He Have Faithful Children?

Compare Parallel ASV ESV ESV+ KJV KJV+ NET NET+ NIrV NIV NKJV							
ESV	NKJV	NET	NIV	KJV+	(none)	(none)	(none)
6 if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination.	6 if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.	6 An elder must be blameless, the husband of one wife, with faithful children who cannot be charged with dissipation or rebellion.	6 An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.	6 If any ^{G1536} be ^{G2076} blameless, ^{G410} the husband ^{G435} of one ^{G3391} wife, ^{G1135} having ^{G2192} faithful ^{G4103} children ^{G5043} not ^{G3361} accused ^{G1722} ^{G2724} of riot ^{G810} or ^{G2228} unruly. ^{G506}			

ESV footnote:

“or are faithful”

NKJV has no footnote.

NET footnote:

N8 tn Or “believing children.” The phrase could be translated “believing children,” but the parallel with [1Ti 3:4](#) (“keeping his children in control”) argues for the sense given in the translation.

NIV footnote:

“or, children are trustworthy”

Comparison of 1 Timothy 3:4-5 and Titus 1:6

1 Timothy 3:4-5	Titus 1:6
<p>“... one who rules his own house well, having <i>his</i> children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);</p> <p>(1Timothy 3:4-5 NKJV)</p>	<p>“... having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.”</p> <p>(Titus 1:6 NKJV)</p>

1. Are these passages parallel?
2. Is **believing** (Christian) children an additional qualification?

Are His Children Accused of **Riot**? (Titus 1:6)

- **G810**
- ἀσωτία
- asōtia
- **Thayer Definition:**
 - 1) an abandoned, dissolute life
 - 2) *profligacy*, prodigality
- **Part of Speech:** feminine noun
- **A Related Word by Thayer's/Strong's Number:** from a compound of G1 (as a negative particle) and a presumed derivative of G4982

Profligacy refers to reckless extravagance, extreme wastefulness, or shameless, immoral behavior. It describes both the misuse of resources—such as spending too much money—and a dissolute, self-indulgent lifestyle. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)]

Key Aspects of Profligacy:

- **Wastefulness:** The careless squandering of money, resources, or time.
- **Moral Corruption:** A state of immoral, vicious, or depraved behavior.
- **Self-Indulgence:** A reckless pursuit of sensual pleasure. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)]

Are His Children Unruly? (Titus 1:6)

- G506

- ἀνυπότακτος
- anupotaktos
- an-oo-pot'-ak-tos
- From [G1](#) (as a negative particle) and a presumed derivative of [G5293](#); *unsubdued*, that is, *insubordinate* (in fact or temper): -disobedient, that is not put under, unruly.
- Total KJV occurrences: 4



Is He a Novice? (1 Timothy 3:6)

not a **novice**, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the *same* condemnation as the devil.

(1 Timothy 3:6 NKJV)

• G3504

- νεόφυτος
- neophutos
- *neh-of'-oo-tos*
- From G3501 and a derivative of G5453; *newly planted*, that is, (figuratively) a *young convert* (“neophyte”): - novice.
- Total KJV occurrences: 1

Is He a Good Steward? (Titus 1:7b)

- G3623

- οἰκονόμος
- oikonomos
- oy-kon-om'-os
- From G3624 and the base of G3551; a *house distributor* (that is, *manager*), or *overseer*, that is, an employee in that capacity; by extension a fiscal *agent* (*treasurer*); figuratively a *preacher* (of the Gospel): - chamberlain, governor, steward.
- Total KJV occurrences: 10



Spousal Qualifications

Four Characteristics



Is She Reverent?

(1 Timothy 3:11a)

G4586

σεμνός

semnos

sem-nos'

From [G4576](#); *venerable*, that is, *honorable*: - grave, honest.

Total KJV occurrences: 4

Philippians 4:8; 1 Timothy 3:8, 11;
Titus 2:2



Is She a **Slanderer**?

(1 Timothy 3:11b)

- **G1228**

- διάβολος
- diabolos
- *dee-ab'-ol-os*
- From **G1225**; a *traducer*; specifically, *Satan* (compare [**H7854**]): - false accuser, devil, slanderer.
- **Total KJV occurrences: 38**



Is She Temperate?

(1 Timothy 3:11c)

- **G3524**

- *νηφάλιος*
- *nēphalios*
- 3x: somber, temperate, abstinent in respect to wine, etc.; in NT met., vigilant, circumspect, self-controlled, [1Ti_3:2](#); [1Ti_3:11](#); [Tit_2:2](#).
- 1 Timothy 3:2, 11; Titus 2:2



Is She **Faithful** in All Things?

(1 Timothy 3:11d)

- **G4103**

- πιστός
- pistos
- *pis-tos'*
- From [G3982](#); objectively *trustworthy*; subjectively *trustful*: - believe (-ing, -r), faithful (-ly), sure, true.
- **Total KJV occurrences: 67**



Summary of Qualifications

Also, refer to the handout “Chart on the Qualification of Elders”



Summary of Qualifications

- **Preliminary Qualities (3)** – male, desire, mature
- **Moral Qualities (15)** – blameless, temperate, sober-minded, well-behaved, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, not very greedy for money, a gentleman, not quarrelsome, loves what is good, just, well spoken of by outsiders, not self-willed, holy
- **Knowledge Qualities (4)** – Able to teach, holds fast the faithful word, able to exhort, able to refute those who contradict
- **Managerial (7/8)** – husband of one wife, rules his house well, children in submission, faithful children, children not riotous, children not unruly, not a novice, a good steward
- **Social Qualities (1)** – Hospitable
- **Spousal Qualities (4)** – Reverent, not a slanderer, temperate, faithful in all things

Conclusion

- This is a matter of utmost gravity.
- The men will be meeting this afternoon to discuss whether to proceed with the appointment of elders for our congregation.
- We will keep everyone informed as we go forward.
- We earnestly solicit your prayers for this discussion, for the men who have expressed an interest in serving as elders, for the all the men and our entire congregation!