

ELDER QUALIFICATIONS

Note: These are the qualifications for an elder or for a pastor. Use these when you are considering anyone for this office. No matter how good a speaker a pastor or elder is, this is the measure God wants us to use.

(1) Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 3:1		
Bible Version	KJV: desire the office	NAS: aspires to the office
	NKJV: desires the position	NIV: sets his heart on
Meaning: The person desires to be an elder not compelled		
Question: When asked, does this person express a desire to be an elder?		

(2) Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 3:2		
Bible Version	KJV: blameless	NAS: above reproach
	NKJV: blameless	NIV: above reproach
Meaning: No observable violation of Bible commands in this man's life		
Question: Does he have a good reputation of obeying biblical commands?		

(3) Scripture Reference: Titus 1:6		
Bible Version	KJV: blameless	NAS: above reproach
	NKJV: blameless	NIV: blameless
Meaning: absence of an unprovable accusation or charge against him		
Question: Is there even an unprovable accusation or charge against him?		

(4) Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6		
Bible Version	KJV: the husband of one wife	NAS: the husband of one wife
	NKJV: the husband of one wife	NIV: the husband of but one wife
Meaning: He presently has one wife and demonstrates commitment to her. This says nothing of past marriages just as the other qualifications say nothing of his history. This does not bar unmarried men (eg. Jesus and Paul) from serving as elders.		
Question: Is he showing a present and recent pattern of being committed to one woman as his wife?		

(5) Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 3:2		
Bible Version	KJV: vigilant	NAS: temperate
	NKJV: temperate	NIV: temperate
Meaning: Greek word "neepho" means ruled by the mind not anything external or outside the person.		
Question: Is his thinking easily swayed by external pressure or by others?		

(6) Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8		
Bible Version	KJV: sober	NAS: prudent/sensible
	NKJV: sober-minded	NIV: self-controlled
Meaning: Greek word "sophron" means mind rules and controls impulses and emotions		
Question: Does he rule and control his impulses and emotions?		

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(7) Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 3:2		
Bible	KJV: of good behaviour	NAS: respectable
Version	NKJV: of good behavior	NIV: respectable
Meaning: orderly in one's spiritual life		
Question: Is he orderly in his spiritual life?		

(8) Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8		
Bible	KJV: given to hospitality	NAS: hospitable
Version	NKJV: hospitable	NIV: hospitable
Meaning: literally "a love of strangers." This seems to be related to mission-mindedness and in arranging for the support of missionaries as in 3 John 5-8. Others relate this to making himself approachable to assist others		
Question: Does he have a heart for the support of missions and does he make efforts to make himself approachable to other believers?		

(9) Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9		
Bible	KJV: apt to teach/holding fast the faithful word ... able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.	NAS: able to teach/holding fast the faithful word ... able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict
Version	NKJV: able to teach/holding fast the faithful word ... able by sound doctrine both to exhort and convict those who contradict	NIV: able to teach/hold firmly to the trustworthy message ... can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it
Meaning: skill in teaching so that he is able to use sound doctrine to encourage people and to show those who oppose that they are in error		
Question: Is he correct in his understanding of what the Bible teaches? Is this man able to teach God's word so well that he can encourage people by sound doctrine and show those who speak unsound doctrine when they are in error?		

(10) Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7		
Bible	KJV: not given to wine	NAS: not addicted to wine
Version	NKJV: not given to wine	NIV: not given to drunkenness
Meaning: the control of alcohol over behavior or life		
Question: From the perspective of others, does he have a problem with chemical dependency?		

(11) Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7		
Bible	KJV: no striker	NAS: not pugnacious
Version	NKJV: not violent	NIV: not violent
Meaning: avoids the use of violence in relating to others		
Question: Is he violent (spouse, child abuse, assault charges)?		

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(12) Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7		
Bible Version	KJV: not greedy of filthy lucre/ not given to filthy lucre	NAS: <i>not in oldest manuscripts in 1 Timothy 3:3/ not fond of sordid gain</i>
	NKJV: not greedy for money	NIV: <i>not in oldest manuscripts in 1 Timothy 3:3/ not pursuing dishonest gain</i>
Meaning: One who does not try to gain money by acts of disobeying God's word such as stealing, extortion, swindling or fraud.		
Question: Is he involved in dishonest gain?		

(13) Scripture Reference:		
Bible Version	KJV: patient	NAS: gentle
	NKJV: gentle	NIV: gentle
Meaning: flexible in sense of accommodating rather than controlling		
Question: Is he flexible or equitable rather than controlling (eg. physical and verbal abuse)?		

(14) Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 3:3		
Bible Version	KJV: not a brawler	NAS: uncontentious
	NKJV: not quarrelsome	NIV: not quarrelsome
Meaning: one who is more interested in pursuing peace than winning the argument		
Question: Is he quarrelsome?		

(15) Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 3:3		
Bible Version	KJV: not covetous	NAS: free from the love of money
	NKJV: not covetous	NIV: not a lover of money
Meaning: One whose behavior and choices show that money is a higher priority than living for Christ		
Question: Does his behavior and choices show that the gaining and keeping of money or material wealth is more important than consistent obedience to God's word?		

(16) Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 3:4		
Bible Version	KJV: ruleth well his own house	NAS: manages his own household well
	NKJV: rules his own house well	NIV: manage his own family well
Meaning: One who can lead his family in such a way so that they work and live together in harmony		
Question: Does his family respond to his leadership in such a way that it would be something other believers would want to imitate? (This means to imitate as measured by the scripture and not as measured by the ideas and standards of culture.)		

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(17) Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:6		
Bible Version	KJV: having his children in subjection with all gravity/having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly	NAS: keeping his children under control with all dignity/having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion
	NKJV: having his children in submission with all reverence/having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination	NIV: see that his children obey him with proper respect/whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild or disobedient
Meaning: His children obey him with complete respect. His children are believers and not seen or rumored as being wild or non-compliant.		
Question: a. Do his children obey him with complete respect? b. Are his children believers? c. Are his children known or rumored to be wild and disobedient?		

(18) Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 3:6		
Bible Version	KJV: not a novice	NAS: not a new convert
	NKJV: not a novice	NIV: must not be a recent convert
Meaning: A new convert is one who has been a believer less than 3 years. Observe how long before the following entered leadership roles: Jesus ministered to the Apostles for about 3 years, Paul to the Ephesian elders for 3 years (Acts 20:31), and Christ to Paul (Galatians 1:15-19). Three years does not mean one is mature, but it is a very minimum.		
Question: Has he been a believer for at least 3 years, and does he show spiritual maturity?		

(19) Scripture Reference: 1 Timothy 3:7		
Bible Version	KJV: he must have a good report of them which are without	NAS: he must have a good reputation with those outside the church
	NKJV: he must have a good testimony among those who are outside	NIV: He must also have a good reputation with outsiders
Meaning: One who has a good reputation among unbelievers for his obedience to the commands and standards of the Bible.		
Question: Does he have a good reputation among unbelievers for his obedience to the commands and standards of the Bible? <i>Note: Do not consider their criticisms if they do not relate to biblical norms, but do consider their criticisms if they relate to biblical norms.</i>		

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(20) Scripture Reference: Titus 1:7		
Bible Version	KJV: must be blameless, as the steward of God	NAS: must be above reproach as God's steward
	NKJV: must be blameless, as a steward of God	NIV: since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless
Meaning: There is no criticism – even an unproven one – of what a person is responsible for in God's work.		
Question: Is what he is entrusted with in God's work absent from accusation – even an unproven one?		

(21) Scripture Reference: Titus 1:7		
Bible Version	KJV: not self-willed	NAS: not self-willed
	NKJV: not self-willed	NIV: not overbearing
Meaning: The meaning of overbearing or arrogant is the main meaning of the word.		
Question: Is he overbearing?		

(22) Scripture Reference: Titus 1:7		
Bible Version	KJV: not soon angry	NAS: not quick-tempered
	NKJV: not quick-tempered	NIV: not quick-tempered
Meaning: One whose anger is quick to flare up (cp. James 1:19-20).		
Question: Is he quick-tempered?		

(23) Scripture Reference: Titus 1:8		
Bible Version	KJV: a lover of good men	NAS: loving what is good
	NKJV: a lover of what is good	NIV: loving what is good
Meaning: This person values whom and what is good rather than devaluing or mocking whom or what is good (2 Timothy 3:3).		
Question: Does he love and value whom and what is good?		

(24) Scripture Reference: Titus 1:8		
Bible Version	KJV: just	NAS: just
	NKJV: just	NIV: upright
Meaning: This word means just in the sense of doing what is right or showing practical righteousness		
Question: Do his actions show a commitment and passion to do what is right?		

(25) Scripture Reference: Titus 1:8		
Bible Version	KJV: holy	NAS: devout
	NKJV: holy	NIV: holy
Meaning: Not the usual word translated "holy" or "devout" but means one who is committed to both grace and truth (cp. John 1:14, 17)		
Question: Is he committed to both grace and truth?		

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Scripture Reference: Titus 1:8		
Bible Version	KJV: temperate	NAS: self-controlled
	NKJV: self-controlled	NIV: disciplined
Meaning: Greek word for self-control of the body and its desires		
Question: Is he in control of his body in his sexuality and his appetites?		