



## Qualifications for Pastor-Elder

“Entrusted to You” Series

1 Timothy 3:2-7, p. 992

March 14, 2021

Pastor Mickey Klink

### Introduction

In this sermon we learn about the qualifications for the office of pastor-elder.

### The Text: 1 Timothy 3:2-7

<sup>2</sup> Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup> not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup> He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, <sup>5</sup> for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? <sup>6</sup> He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. <sup>7</sup> Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

1) God has given the church requirements regarding the personal character of the pastor-elder (vv. 2-3).

a) *Seven Qualifications for a Pastor-Elder*

- (1) *Above reproach*
- (2) *Husband of one wife*
- (3) *Sober-minded*
- (4) *Self-controlled*
- (5) *Respectable*
- (6) *Hospitable*
- (7) *Able to teach*

b) *Four Disqualifications for a Pastor-Elder*

- (1) *A drunkard*
- (2) *Violent*
- (3) *Quarrelsome*
- (4) *Lover of money*

2) God expects the qualities of a pastor-elder to be reflected in a man's family life (vv. 4-5).

3) God expects a pastor-elder to have a Christian life and practice that has taken root (vv. 6-7).

(a) *Not a new believer.*

(b) *A good reputation outside the church and in the community.*

### Some final thoughts:

- Pray for your pastor-elders.
- Respect your pastor-elders.
  - *Hebrews 13:17: <sup>17</sup> Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.*
- If any of you men aspire to be a pastor-elder, let this text direct your aspirations.

### Response:

May we be a church that aligns itself to the ministry structure prescribed for us in God's Word.

**Sunday Text Questions for 1 Timothy 3:2-7 (“Entrusted to You” Series)**

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- 1) Starter Question: How well do you know the pastor-elders at Hope Church?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Since v. 2 says a pastor-elder “must” have these qualifications, how can a congregation take these qualifications seriously in their selection and election of pastor-elders?
- 4) V. 2 offers seven qualifications for the office of pastor-elder. What stands out or needs further clarification?
- 5) V. 3 offers four disqualifications for the office of pastor-elder. Again, what stands out or needs further clarification?
- 6) Based upon vv. 4-5, why is a man’s family life a good place both to train and test their fit for the office of pastor-elder?
- 7) Why does the apostle Paul prohibit a new convert from being placed in the office of pastor-elder (v. 6)?
- 8) Why does a pastor-elder need to “be well through of by outsiders” (v. 7)?
- 9) What does this passage as a whole teach you about the importance and seriousness of the office of pastor-elder?
- 10) Whether or not you “aspire” to serve as a pastor-elder (v. 1), how might this text impact the way you *interact* with the office of pastor-elder or *participate* as a church member in the election of pastor-elders?

**Further study this week:** Passages on the Lord as our Shepherd: Psalm 23 (Mon); John 10:1-18 (Tues); Isaiah 40:11 (Wed); Psalm 100 (Thurs); Isaiah 53:6 (Fri).