

'It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer; it is a fine work he desires to do. An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.'

This letter is written to the church. He first talked about doctrine (**Ch. 1**), then he talked about men and women (**Ch. 2**), now Paul is talking about leadership/Elders and servants/Deacons (**Ch. 3**).

How a church is lead is very important! Leadership in the church is not what many people would like to sell it to be. It is far simpler than it is billed; leadership in the church is **1. Morally qualified. 2. Mentally qualified. 3. Mightily committed.**

V. 1 Trustworthy statement – 1 of 5 statements in the Pastoral Epistles.

If any man. This office is not restrict to a special class of citizens. This class is open to any man that aspires to the office. The desire to move to the office of Elder is what must be worked into the heart of the man and this must happen by the Holy Spirit. It is a holy motivation. We should not just or evaluate a man's calling by carnal/worldly measurements. How he looks, his pedigree, his prestige, his family (these are surefire ways to quench the Holy Spirit – 'God evaluates the inward parts')

Aspires. Any man that has the desire to be an overseer should pursue the calling. Motivation given by the Holy Spirit.

Fine work. Καλος/kalos; good, fine, noble. Εργον/ergon, work/deed. It is a good deed to do this work. Rom. 12 'reasonable act of worship' to do this good work. This good work sanctifies those who do it.

This Divine Calling to be an overseer is not validated solely on the man's desire, instead, it is confirmed in 3-part by his local church.

I. **Morally Qualified.**

Above reproach. Husband of one wife. Temperate. Prudent. Respectable. Hospitable. Not addicted to wine. Not pugnacious. Gentle. Peaceable. Free from the love of money.

Above reproach. This does not mean without sin. It means that they have an example that others should follow. No elder is perfect or a believer's sole model, but they should be able to boast 'be imitators of me.'

1 Cor. 11:1

Husband of one wife. 5 traditional church views on this.

1. Married to the church (Catholic view)
2. No polygamy view.
3. Prohibition of remarried widowers view.
4. Exclusion of unmarried elders view.
5. Prohibition of divorce view.

This is probably the most complex of the moral attributes in our age. First, what is Paul's intention; Is Paul's intention, 1/2/3/4/5? I would argue that Paul's intention is that the Elder should be a model of marriage and sexual fidelity. **'One woman man.' Ref. Jesus' permitting of divorce, Matt. 19**

***I think it is a very bad practice to begin to attribute to an elder partiality in any requirement that isn't also required of any other Christian in the church. If you do that, you begin to objectify that person and either worship their behavior to the good or the bad, instead of just seeing them as a good role model but not one that is worshiped.**

Temperate. Soberminded, level-headed, sober.

Prudent. Soberminded, level-headed, sober. Self-controlled. (Let's talk about this one a little bit). How do you work on this in your life? I think the simplest way to discipline this is diet and speech.

Respectable. Honorable, appropriate, modest.

Hospitable. Hosting people, giving kindly and graciously.

Not addicted to wine. Q: Ok, let's talk briefly about this. Can an elder drink wine or beer or alcohol? Can any Christian?

Not pugnacious. Quarrelsome, inclined to fight, but peaceable.

Gentle. Kind, tolerate.

Peaceable.

Free from the love of money. Not greedy.

Now, this is what elders should be morally. This doesn't mean every other Christian in the church shouldn't be these same things, but the Elders **should be setting the example in these things in leadership.**

II. Mentally Qualified.

Able to teach. Teach what? The Bible. Sound Theology. Utilize the Bible to 'exhort and refute'

Skillful in teaching. The ability to instruct people in doctrine. I would say it doesn't mean you are an expert in every doctrine, BUT, you won't deny any sound doctrine and you will be capable in teaching some Christian doctrine.

One who manages his own household well. Q: What are the things that need to be managed at home? Cleaning, making meals, homework, dishes, laundry, budgeting, lawn mowing, maintenance, cars – it's a business in and of itself. **Personnel** – talent development. **Family. Literally:** Descendants and property. 'a righteous man leaves an inheritance for his children's children.' Prov. 13:22

Keeps his children under control with all dignity. How does an elder keep his children under control/what does that mean? Does this include adult children? John Piper example.

III. Mightily Committed.

Not a new convert. 'Immediate conversions are almost always false conversions' Jon Edwards

It's not a good idea to lean on a two year old tree, the church needs old oaks that people can lean on and find shade under. -We need more old men in the church.

Must have a good reputation with those outside the church. 'reprove not a scoffer' 'make friends with unrighteous mammon' Jesus 'He who wins souls is wise' Prov.

Can deal with the condemnation and traps that comes from Satan.

Precious Remedies Against the Devices of Satan by Thomas Brooks (12 devices and their remedies)

1. To Present the Bait and hide the hook.
2. By Painting Sin with Virtues Colors.
3. By Extenuating and Lessening of Sin (it is only a little sin)
4. By Presenting to the Soul the men's sins, and by hiding from them soul and their virtues
5. To Present God to the soul as made up all of Mercy.
6. By persuading the soul that repentance is an easy work and soul should not make a big matter of sin.
7. By making the soul bold to the occasion of sin
8. Presenting to the soul the mercy that vain men enjoy and the outward miseries they are freed from as they walk in sin
9. By presenting to the soul, the crosses, losses, reproaches, sorrows, and sufferings of those who daily walk in holiness.
10. By getting them to compare themselves and their ways with those who seem to be worse than themselves
11. By polluting their judgements with dangerous errors which take their soul to loose and wicked living
12. To keep wicked company.