

A Few Good Men: Leadership Qualifications

1 Timothy 3:1-7 (p. 1178) / Titus 1:5-9 (p. 1184)

Review:

The New Testament identifies

two offices for the church: Elders & Deacons

Elders are qualified men recognized by the congregation to lead the church through teaching the Word, praying, and overseeing its overall affairs.

→ Biblical church structure:

Elder-led congregationalism.

→ Multiple terms for the “elder/pastor” office:

Overseer, Elder, Shepherd/Pastor

8 benefits to a plurality of elders:

1. A Clear Vision of Christ as the Head of the church.
2. A Wealth of Wisdom.
3. The Benefit of Greater Range of Gifts.
4. There is Safety in Numbers.
5. Additional Stability for the Church.
6. Shepherding for Shepherds.
7. Guarding Against Burnout.
8. Discourages a “Personality Cult.”

At least **18** qualities listed for elders.

3 Categories of Elder Qualifications:

(taken from J. Josh Smith, The Titus Ten: Foundations for Godly Manhood)

1. **Blamelessness**
2. **Self-Control**
3. **Courage**

1. **Blamelessness**. (Reputation & Relationships)

- “blameless” or “above reproach”
- Family Integrity: a “one-woman man” who “must manage his own household well”
- Public Witness:
“he must be well thought of by outsiders”
[Titus 1 includes “Just” / “Upright” / “Holy”]
- Stewardship:

2. **Self-Control**. (Dominion Over the Flesh)

- Sober-minded (disciplined, a lover of good)
- Self-controlled
- Hospitable
- Not a drunkard (Not given to wine)
- Not violent, but gentle
- Not quarrelsome (not arrogant or quick-tempered)
- Not a lover of money (not greedy for gain)

To put in concisely:

A man not ruled by emotions or appetites
but cultivating positive character.

“A man cannot be a leader until he first learns to take dominion over himself.”
[The Titus Ten, p.29]

3. **Courage**. (Standing for Truth)

- Able to teach (“able to give instruction in sound doctrine”)
- “He must hold firm to the trustworthy word...”
- Able to rebuke those who contradict it.”
- The willingness to stand firm in the truth and take spiritual hits to protect others.