

Intro: An excellent task. Greek Prover/Plato: "Those things which are excellent are also arduous and difficult." **Spiderman:** "With great power comes great responsibility." This is a great thing to be striving toward. To desire. **It's a TASK/not simply a TITLE.**

Thesis: "Every local church needs FAITHFUL elders."

I. Men of Character (v.2-3)

- A. **Above Reproach.**
- B. **Good Husbands.** One wife. Faithful.
- C. **Sober-minded.** Serious. Reflective. Thoughtful.
- D. **Self-Controlled.**
- E. **Respectable.**
- F. **Hospitable.**
- G. **Not addicted to alcohol.**
- H. **Not a striker/Violent.** Gentle. Not harsh. Rough. **Approachable.** Not too intimidating. :-)

JOHN CALVIN: "A pastor must be able to drive away wolves and comfort the sheep."

- I. **Not quarrelsome** (Looking for a fight. Disagreement. Opportunity to argue.)
- J. **Not greedy or lover of money.** Not lucrative. 1 Tim. 6:10.

II. Men of Ability (4-5)

- A. **Bishop = Overseer.** Manager. In NT, Bishop, Pastor (Shepherd), Elder, are used interchangeably. Titus 1 & 1 Peter 5. **Presbytueros/Episkopos/poimen**
- B. **Management Skills. Leadership.** Some secular overlap. But not exclusively.
- C. **Family leadership.** Worship. Discipleship. Discipline. Formation. Respect. Care.
- D. **Wives (v.11).** **Respectable.** Leads. Shepherds. Afraid of their wives? Boss?
- E. **Church involvement.** Leads. Demonstrate. Volunteers. Members/Committed. Cares.
- F. **Teaching (v.2).** **Know their Bible.** Theology. Can help others understand. Questions.
- G. **Preaching/Explanation?** *Emergency situations will come up.* Death. Transition.

III. Men of Maturity (6-7)

- A. **This is the meaning of "elder."** In pagan/secular culture this term was used of anyone in positions of leadership or government. Not necessarily just old people. Maturity.
- B. **Not a recent convert.** Evidence of growth and genuine faith. Seed/Sower.
- C. **Humility.** Not arrogant (puffed up). Conceit. This was the sin of the devil. Condemned.
- D. **A faithful disciple of Christ.** Loving. Caring. Contributing. Serving.
- E. **Respected and Respectful.** Even by unbelievers. **Not always case. Truth in love.**
- F. **So that he might not fall into disgrace.** This is sad because it has happened recently. How much and how long has this been going on that we were unaware of because of culture, social media, lack of transparency, etc.
- G. **The goal of the devil is to bring churches down.** Stop the church. How do you stop the church? Go after the head. He went after Jesus and lost. So now he's going down swinging. Who's next? Pastors, Elders, Volunteers, Attenders, families, dissension, infighting, drama, politics. To ensnare, cause quarrels, kill. James

APPLICATION/CONCLUSION:

- A) **Men:** 1) Does this describe you? 2) Do you want it to describe you? 3) Why not?
- B) **Women:** Things to aspire; to describe all of us. **Children/BoyFriend/Future Spouse?**
- C) **All:** Do you know of any men in our church that you think this describes/could describe?
- D) **Denominations.** Why so many? Disagreement over 2,000yrs history. But really there's one church, one body, one denomination. We're just waiting for everybody to catch on. Haha!