

- **Every pastor is an elder and every elder pastors the church** ... God appoints **pastors and elders** to share the responsibility of **shepherding** the church (oversee, guard, teach) ... By what qualifications are they expected to lead?
  - **MERKLE:** *Qualifications for an elder are the basic characteristics expected of all Christians... Focus of the qualifications is on **who a person is** more than **what a person does*** ... Meaning, character of pastor and elder is more important than giftedness and education ... While beneficial, character of an elder is more telling ... **His character underlines his entire ministry** ... Peter instructs elders to **be examples to the flock** (1Pe5:3) ... Thus, the character they teach other people to live out is the same character they themselves demonstrate
  - Pastors and elders are to be **blameless** – 1:6, *blameless at home*; 1:7-9, *blameless in ministry* ... **Above reproach:** lead the way in **imitating Christ at home and in ministry** ... Two cannot be separated ... An elder cannot be one person at home and a completely different person in public ... There should be no disconnect ... This doesn't mean elders have to be perfect without any faults ... Neither should they be men who whitewash their faults
  - **Life of pastor and elder is marked by the gospel** ... **THUNE:** *Any man who aspires to eldership must give himself to the formation of godly character... And this is why the gospel is essential to spiritual leadership* ... Healthy pastor and elder **admits** their character weaknesses, and **turns to Christ** for His grace, identity, and transformation
  
- **1:5-9** appointing elders, **1:10-16** confronting false teachers
  - **VS6** – careful not to force passage to say more than it means to say ... **Husband of one wife:** elder must be faithful to his wife in a monogamous relationship ... Verse isn't speaking on issue of divorce or remarriage, nor implying pastor / elder needs to be married ... **Faithful children:** speaks of behavior, not spiritual status ... Elder's should faithfully lead their home, and raise their kids with biblical instruction and discipline ... Being an example to imitate
  - **VS7** – pastors and elders should be men who aren't arrogant, quick to get angry, abusive and violent towards others, and fixated on wealth ... The drinking restriction concerns being drunk, not that a pastor or elder can't ever drink
  - **VS8** – pastors and elders should be men who maintain a good reputation with non-Christians, who open their home to others ... Men who do what's good and love what's good ... Men devoted to God, committed to following His will ... (similar words) **Sensible** involves *your mindset*, **Self-controlled** involves *your behavior* ... Both need to be influenced by the Holy Spirit ... Practicing good judgment and self-discipline, not ruled by emotions, impulses, temptations
  - **VS9** – pastors and elders should be learners ... Primarily a learner of God's word ... They should continually grow in their understanding of God and His word ... There should be a draw to do so, and not a reluctance ... Demonstrate an active and steadfast faith in God and His word ... Doesn't mean exercising a perfect, trouble-free, faith ... Means resolving to holding firm to God and His word despite whatever hardship rises in opposition
  
- As we go through each of these, it should be apparent to you that these characteristics are something all Christians should aspire towards ... Regardless of gender, all of these apply because they're characteristics we all share with Christ ... **His character for us, in us, and through us** ... Men, your family needs you to be such a man ... These are traits that extend to all areas of your life – family, work, and social ... **A life marked by Christ and His gospel**