

Qualifications As Listed In 1 Timothy 3:1-13

The following two qualifications are specific to the role of an *elder*:

Man

- A pastor/Elder must be a man. God has created men and women equal but complementary in their roles and responsibilities.

Able To Teach

- This means to hold firm to the word, give instruction in sound doctrine, and also rebuke those who contradict it. They must be able to communicate God's Word in a way that is accurate and understandable.

The following qualifications apply to both to the role of an *elder*, as well as a *deacon*.

Aspires to the office

- Paul makes it clear that those who are chosen to serve should want to serve. A pastor should desire to do his work and do so gladly, not under compulsion.

Must Be Above Reproach

- Not perfection, but godliness. He must be free from any blemishes of character or conduct. His relationship with his wife and children is commendable, and morally he has no glaring weaknesses. Outsiders should not be able to point their finger and discredit his profession to be a faithful follower of Christ.

Marital Fidelity

- The importance of marital and sexual faithfulness. It points to the faithfulness of a husband towards his wife. He must be a one-woman man, which means there must not be another woman to whom he is physically or emotionally involved. He must love, honor, and be devoted to his wife and her alone.

Sober-Mind

- To think clearly and spiritually about important matters. Additionally, it means to be self-controlled, having a balanced judgment and being able to rationally make cool-headed decisions.

Self-Controlled

- The need for the disciplined exercise of good judgment. It speaks of being prudent and discreet.

Respectable

- He must have a character that is respectable. If others are to follow and emulate him, he must prove that his life is worth following.

Hospitable

- Making time not only for his family but also for others. He must take the time to build relationships with other people. To effectively shepherd the flock of God, his home must be open so that he can minister to flock more than just on Sunday mornings

Not A Drunkard

- He must not be addicted to wine or other strong drink or substance that may bring shame to the person and reproach on the church. This person lacks self-control.

Not Violent

- A person who is violent (pugnacious) is one who is easily irritated and has a bad temper. This person is more apt to fight than to calmly talk through a difficult situation.

Gentle

- He must be kind, gracious, and forbearing. A gentle person is not overbearing but patient with others, particularly when they have done wrong.

Not Quarrelsome

- A person who is peaceful and gentle. There are constant quarrels in the church and an Elder/Pastor must be able to deal with those tensions and not add to them. He must be a peacemaker.

Not A Lover Of Money

- If a person is a lover of money, it is difficult for him to be a lover of God; that person's passions will be divided and they will become ineffective and distracted.

Manage His Own Household Well, Keeping His Children Submissive

- "Manage" carries the idea of governing, leading, and giving direction to the family. It speaks to the role of a father. He must have respectful, obedient children; not heavy-handed and authoritarian with his children but "with all dignity" or "all reverence."

Not A Recent Convert

- When a new convert takes on an important and respected leadership role without the deep maturity that comes with time, he may become filled with pride and end up ruining his ministry and defaming the name of God. A new convert does not truly understand his own weakness and the temptations that might ensnare him. The church at Ephesus was a well-established church when Paul wrote I Timothy (probably in existence of 15 years or more); the church in Crete was much younger and as a result, Paul didn't include this restriction.

Well Thought Of By Outsiders

- A pastor must maintain a good reputation before a world of watching unbelievers.

To listen to Pastor Nate's sermon from 1 Timothy 3:1-7 entitled, "The Gospel and Church Leadership" go [here](#).