



# Qualifications of Elders

Part 1

# Desiring the Position

- Presented as a statement of fact, rather than a qualification – 1 Tim. 3:1
- Desiring this is unquestionably good – Heb. 13:17
- What is meant by **desire**?
  - **Oregomai** – to reach or stretch out with desire to grasp
  - **Epithumei** – inward craving, longing, or to long for
  - There is to be **effort** put forth to gain this position, **fueled by inward desire** to serve
  - This desire must come from proper motivation – 1 Pet. 5:2

# Blameless

- Blameless - 1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6, 7
  - **Anepileptos** – that cannot be laid hold of, irreproachable; (2) unrebukable
  - **Anegkletos** – unproveable, with nothing laid to one's charge (as the result of public investigation); absence of a charge or accusation against a person
- *Absence of a charge* against a man cannot be literal, but instead must refer to a *legitimate* charge
  - Even Jesus was charged – 1 Tim. 5:19
  - Perfection is not a qualification, though an aspiration – Gal. 2:11
- You must grasp the seriousness of your actions today as they relate to tomorrow!

# Husband of One Wife

- Greek is literally “a one-woman man,” or a **one-wife husband**
- Pos. 1 – He must be **married** to a **woman**
  - There are no *unmarried husbands* and other qualifications require marriage – 1 Tim. 3:4; Titus 1:6
  - Problem – Ignores other issues of sin related to marriage – 1 Cor. 5:11; 6:9-10
- Pos. 2 – He must be **married** to a **woman** and **not a polygamist**
  - Ignores whether the marriage is legitimate – Matt. 19:9

# Husband of One Wife

- Pos. 3 – He must be **married** to a **woman**, but **not in a second marriage**, whether widowed or divorced.
  - Could have merit in certain cases, but problematic
  - A man who puts away his wife for sexual immorality and remarries *is the husband of one wife* – Mt. 19:9
- Some claim a lack of *blamelessness* and not “having a good report from those...outside”? – 1 Tim. 3:7
  - True in some, not in others
  - What about preachers and teachers in this situation?
  - Expediency may be a factor

# Husband of One Wife

- Pos. 4 – He must be **married** to a **woman** and **neither a polygamist nor an adulterer**
- This is correct, fitting the criteria of holiness and faithfulness required of all Christians – Heb. 13:4
- Question: If an elder's wife dies, is he still qualified?
  - Some say yes, seeing he still has the experience(s) needed to be an elder
  - Yet, he is no longer a *husband*.
  - You cannot claim he is not a husband here, while claiming he has two wives if he remarries – Rom. 7:2-3

# Application

- One who aspires to the office has work to do *now* to assure that your marriage is what God desires it to be.
  - Are you a *one-woman man* in your dedication, love, and respect for your wife? – 1 Pet. 3:7
  - Are you a wife that is working to be fit for an elder's wife? – 1 Pet. 3:1-4
- Consider the teaching of 1 Tim. 3:11
- Marriage is a serious matter when it comes to being an elder.
  - Our children must receive proper instruction concerning their character and what to look for in a mate!
  - Marriage can make or break you!