

THE ELDERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK

QUALIFICATIONS:

1 Timothy 3:1-7 It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires *to do*. (2) An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, (3) not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money. (4) *He must be* one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (5) (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?); (6) *and* not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. (7) And he must have a good reputation with those outside *the church*, so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. [NASB]

Titus 1:5-9 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, (6) *namely*, if any man be above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. (7) For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, (8) but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, (9) holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict. [NASB]

1 Peter 5:1-9 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, (2) shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; (3) nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. (4) And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. (5) You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. (6) Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, (7) casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you. (8) Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (9) But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. [NASB]

QUESTION: Must these above qualifications be retroactive? If so, how far back into the candidate's life must they go? The age of accountability? His baptism? His maturity in the faith? Now, do ALL of these qualifications need to be retroactive? Which ones? Who says so? For example, could a candidate ever have been pugnacious, combative (1 Tim. 3:3) for some time in his pre-Christian life or, for that matter, in his post-Christian life? Either ALL of the above qualifications are retroactive or NONE are! The better question is, "how is the fellow doing now-a-days?" See 1 Timothy 5:9

THE WORK: THE MAJOR WORK INVOLVES TEACHING OR NURTURING [SHEPHERDING].

Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict. [NASB]

1 Tim 3:2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, [NASB] **Eph 4:11-12** And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, (12) for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; [NASB]