

### I. The characteristics of an elder. 1 Timothy 3:1-2

Church leaders have to make decisions based on what is best for the \_\_\_\_\_ body. Sometimes one group doesn't agree with certain decisions made, but that's part of being a leader.

1. The first qualification for an elder is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A spiritual leader is to be \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The husband of one wife. (a \_\_\_\_\_ man)
4. Temperate or self-\_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_-minded.
6. Good \_\_\_\_\_.
7. \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Able to \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. Specific habits of elders. 1 Timothy 3:3-4

1. Not given to \_\_\_\_\_.

There is a two-fold admonition in **Ephesians 5:18**: don't be controlled by alcohol; instead, be \_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Spirit.

2. Not \_\_\_\_\_.

Love without truth is hypocrisy, but truth without \_\_\_\_\_ is cruelty.

3. Not \_\_\_\_\_ for money.
4. \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Not \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Not \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Rules his own \_\_\_\_\_ well.

### III. Maturity of an elder. 1 Timothy 3:5-7

1. Not a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A good \_\_\_\_\_.

All Christians are called to be servants, but elders and pastors have a \_\_\_\_\_ and must meet certain qualifications.

- Paul gave a word picture of an animal trap from "**snare of the devil**". Just as animals could be \_\_\_\_\_ by a baited trap, a church leader without experience can cause disgrace to the body.

### IV. Conclusion.

Paul wasn't merely giving a hiring checklist for elders; he was showing us what a transformed life looks like. Elders are called to have these qualities, but \_\_\_\_\_ believer should strive for them.

### Small Group Discussion

*Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?*

1. Read **1 Timothy 3:1-2**. Discuss the list of eight qualifications from number I. of the sermon note sheet. *How are these qualifications met by a godly leader? Do some congregations go too far with these qualities? Do some congregations not go far enough with these qualifications?*  
**Acts 1:8, Galatians 5:16-18, 2 Timothy 1:7, 1 Corinthians 3:16**
2. *Why are the qualifications for an elder so important for the body of Christ? Ask yourself. "Am I the same person at home that people see at church?" What kind of spiritual atmosphere exists in your home because of your leadership?*  
**John 17:17, Hebrews 4:12-13, Luke 8:17, Psalm 139:23-24**
3. *Why is character more important than talent? The world promotes charisma; God promotes character. What are you personally working harder on—your abilities or your character?*  
**Proverbs 22:1, 1 Samuel 16:7, James 1:12,19, Proverbs 4:23**
4. For a leader in the Church, reputation matters. *What would your neighbors, co-workers, or acquaintances say about your faith?*  
**Ecclesiastes 7:1, Proverbs 27:2, Proverbs 11:3**
5. Read **1 Timothy 3:3-4**. Spiritual maturity is revealed by what controls us. Discuss the list of eight qualifications from number II. of the sermon note sheet. *What area of your life most needs God's control today?*
6. Leadership in God's kingdom is not about position but responsibility. *Where is God calling you to serve rather than be served? Instead of asking what the church can do for me, what kind of disciple is God calling me to become?*  
**Ephesians 2:10, Mark 10:45, 1 Peter 4:10, Romans 12:11**
7. Read **Hebrews 13:17**. Discuss the Practical Application of the sermon.