



# Overseers

In the text of 1 Timothy, Paul now turns to the roles of Bishops & Deacons within the congregation. Appointing elders was part of "setting things in order" (Titus 1:5). The work of elders is often misunderstood and misused. It is important for all of us to know the organizational structure of a congregation (Phil 1:1). Much too often, we focus upon only one or two of the qualities, and worse, we incorporate our own ideas into this list.

A. This section in Timothy defines who can serve as an overseer:

1. The nature of the work is not illustrated here
2. Something immediately to notice:
  - Overseer (1) is \_\_\_\_\_: each person needs to meet these standards ("An overseer must be")
  - Paul uses "must" 3x in this section (2, 4, 7)

## 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.*<sup>2</sup> An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, skillful in teaching,<sup>3</sup> not overindulging in wine, not a bully, but gentle, not contentious, free from the love of money.<sup>4</sup> *He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity*<sup>5</sup> (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),<sup>6</sup> *and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into condemnation incurred by the devil.*<sup>7</sup> And he must have a good reputation with those outside *the church*, so that he will not fall into disgrace and the snare of the devil.

### Four Quick Beginning Spots:

- A
- Not
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## Seven Things You Need To Know about Elders:

1. The terms elder, shepherd, overseer, bishop, pastor all refer to the \_\_\_\_\_ leadership role (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 5:1-3; Eph 4:11)
  - there is no distinction between a bishop and elder
2. The extent of their work is the \_\_\_\_\_ congregation where they are (1 Pet 5:2)
3. The office involves a \_\_\_\_\_ of men (Phil 1:1; Acts 14:23; 20:17)
  - the idea of a chief elder, head elder is foreign to the N.T.
4. What they do is called a \_\_\_\_\_ (3:1)
  - God calls it a \_\_\_\_\_
5. The list in 1 Timothy describes the character, home life, reputation and influence of a bishop
  - this list isn't describing a perfect person
6. They have \_\_\_\_\_ within the office to conduct their work (Heb 13:17)
7. God \_\_\_\_\_ the role of leading His people (1 Tim 5:17-20)

Bishop (overseer): watch/warn  
 Shepherd (pastor): feed  
 Elder: experienced

Why would any man want (aspire) to be an elder?

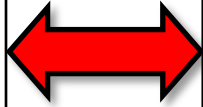
**The expression "elder" does not so much indicate age as it does experience.  
The elder has been around a long time:**

1. He has been around Jesus a long time: He understands the \_\_\_\_\_
2. He has been around the Word of God a long time: He is \_\_\_\_\_ with the Word
3. He has been around God's people a long time: He knows human \_\_\_\_\_
4. He has been around the devil a long time: He knows how to fight \_\_\_\_\_

Elders are to be "examples" to the flock (1 Pet 5:3)

**The Elder**

Blameless (2)  
Good behavior (2)  
Hospitable (2)  
Gentle (3)  
Not covetous (3)  
Good reputation (7)  
Not self-willed (Titus 1:7)  
Not quick angered (Titus 1:7)  
Just (Titus 1:8)  
Holy (Titus 1:8)  
Self controlled (Titus 1:8)



**The Christian**

Blameless (2 Pet 3:14)  
Good behavior (1 Pet 3:16)  
Hospitable (Heb 13:2)  
Gentle (Col 3:12)  
Not covetous (1 Tim 6:10)  
Good reputation (Mt 5:14; Jas 1:22)  
Not self-willed (Lk 9:23)  
Not quick angered (Jas 1:19)  
Just (Heb 10:38)  
Holy (1 Pet 1:16)  
Self controlled (2 Pet 1:6)

How does the qualities in 1 Timothy differ from Titus 1?

It seems that what Paul is describing in the man who will serve as an elder are some prerequisites? Such as:

In Titus, one of the duties of elders is to "silence" the mouths of those teaching error (Titus 1:10-11). What is necessary to do that?

Why is a church vulnerable without qualified men leading them?

What are some attitudes that shepherds need to have?

How are the roles of bishop and deacons different?