

The character of Pastors, Elders and HG leaders

1 Timothy 4:7,8 ‘train yourself to be godly...godliness has value for all things.’

We should all aspire to the same quality Christian character that is expected of Elders/Deacons.

Two forms of Elder in 1 Timothy 5:17

Clearly not all are qualified for ‘preaching and teaching’ but all ‘direct the affairs of the church’.

Therefore ‘able to teach’ (1 Tim.3:2) must refer to something other than able to publicly instruct a congregation in preaching.

also in Ephesians 4:11 Paul refers to ‘pastors and teacher’ but with no reference to Elders.

Whilst all Elders have a pastoral responsibility, some are gifted for ‘preaching and teaching’. For this reason our senior leaders of the Elders are referred to as ‘Pastors’.

Group discussion around 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9.

The qualifications for leadership are listed in the box below. Have your Bibles open to check! Place each under one of these four headings:

- Personal character
- Reputation
- Family life
- Knowledge and handling of Scripture

Agree on one of your group to chair discussion. Allow only one heading for each qualification. So, you will need to come to a consensus!

Plenary discussion

1. Groups report back
2. In practice, what might ‘able to teach’ mean for the leader who is not a ‘teacher-preacher’?
3. What are the implications of ‘manage his own family’ and obedient and respectful children?
4. How does the Christian leader obtain ‘a good reputation with outsiders’?
5. Tease out the practical significance of ‘hospitable’.

Qualifications for Elders and Deacons (D=Deacons also)			
Above reproach.		Manage his own family	
Blameless (D)	1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6	well (D)	1 Timothy 3:4
Faithful to his wife(D)	1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6	His children obey	
Temperate (D)	1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:7	and respect him	1 Timothy 3:4–5; Titus 1:6
Self-controlled	1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8	Not a recent convert	1 Timothy 3:6
Respectable	1 Timothy 3:2	A good reputation	
Hospitable	1 Timothy 3:2	with outsiders	1 Timothy 3:7
Able to teach	1 Timothy 3:2; (5:17)	Not pursuing dishonest	
Not given to		gain (D)	1 Timothy 3:8; Titus 1:7
drunkenness	1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7	Not overbearing	Titus 1:7
Not violent but gentle	1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7	Not quick-tempered	Titus 1:7
Not quarrelsome	1 Timothy 3:3	Love what is good	Titus 1:8
Not a lover of money	1 Timothy 3:3	Upright and holy	Titus 1:8
		Disciplined	Titus 1:8
		Holding firmly to the deep	
		truths of the faith	Titus 1:9; 1 Timothy 1:9

Godliness and godly lives

Titus 1:1 'Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness.'

Godliness and godly lives are reoccurring themes in the pastoral letters of the New Testament.

The word is *eusebeia* (εὐσέβεια) godliness, piety towards God in everything. 'Devotion to God actively expressed in a good life empowered by the gospel'.

When Peter suggests God has given us 'everything we need for a godly life' (2 Peter 1:3) the context indicates this refers to the word of God ('precious promises') and the Holy Spirit ('divine nature').

1 Timothy 4:7,8 'train yourself to be godly...godliness has value for all things.'

6:3 'the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching'

6:11 'pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.'

2 Timothy 3:12 'everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.'

Titus 1:1 'Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness.'

Titus 2:11,12 'The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.'

2 Peter 1:3 'His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

1:5–7 'make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.'

3:11 'what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives.'
