



Qualifications of Elders

Part 6



Must not be ruled by desire for
worldly wealth

1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7

Definitions

- **Not greedy for money** – (self-defined), denotes not being greedy for **base** gains; not being fond of dishonest gain (*Vine; Strong; Thayer; Arndt-Gingrich*)
- **Not covetous** – free from the love of money; does not have an excessive desire for wealth (*Vine; Strong; Thayer; Arndt-Gingrich*)

The Differences

- *Not greedy for money* says an elder must not be willing to act in a dishonest way to gain wealth
 - This would affect his testimony from those outside the church – 1 Tim. 3:7
 - Addresses dishonest reasons for becoming an elder – 1 Pet. 5:2; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 Cor. 9:14
- *Not covetous* means an elder must not have a greedy heart, one full of avarice

Why Important?

- An elder's first love must be for the Lord and His flock – Acts 20:28-31; 2 Tim. 2:15
- An elder who *loves money* would be open to temptations and problems that would ruin his influence and destroy the sheep
 - Characteristic of those who have rejected the Lord – 2 Tim. 3:1-2
 - Indicative of one who lacks faith in God's providing hand – Heb. 13:5; 1 Tim. 6:17
 - Brings all sorts of evil upon oneself – 1 Tim. 6:10

Application

- One who would be an elder cannot have a job that dominates his life.
 - He must work to support his family – 1 Tim. 5:8
 - If his job takes so much time that little is left, especially for the brethren, he can't do the work.
- A shepherd must love the sheep, desire to care for them, and spend time with the sheep.



Must be *gentle* and *just*

1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:8

Definitions

- **Gentle** – equitable, fair, forbearing; considerateness that looks humanely and reasonably at the facts of a case; (2) mild, gentle, patient; (3) yielding, kind (*Vine; Strong; Thayer; Arndt-Gingrich*)
 - Relates to how a man approaches problems with other and between others.
 - It may involve limiting his or others legal rights.
 - It is also translated as patient, yeilding

Definitions

- **Just** – equitable, innocent, holy, just, righteous; conforming to the laws of God and man; **in a narrower sense, rendering to each his due**; and that in a judicial sense, **passing just judgment on others** (*Strong; BDAG; Thayer*)
 - Here the narrower meaning is preferred
 - It corresponds with gentleness and relates to one's dealings with other.
- These traits are invaluable for those who would oversee the Lord's church – 2 Cor. 10:1; Jas. 3:16-17

Application

- The requirement of “ruling his own house well” would be important.
 - Whether he is equitable/fair in dealing with his children’s problems would say much about his leading the church – Col. 3:21
 - If he is prone to losing his temper when addressing family problems, discipline and growth are needed.
 - If he puts such matters off on his wife, he is being slack in his duties (and training) and needs to grow.
- If he shys away from dealing with church problems, or cannot deal with church problems, growth is needed.