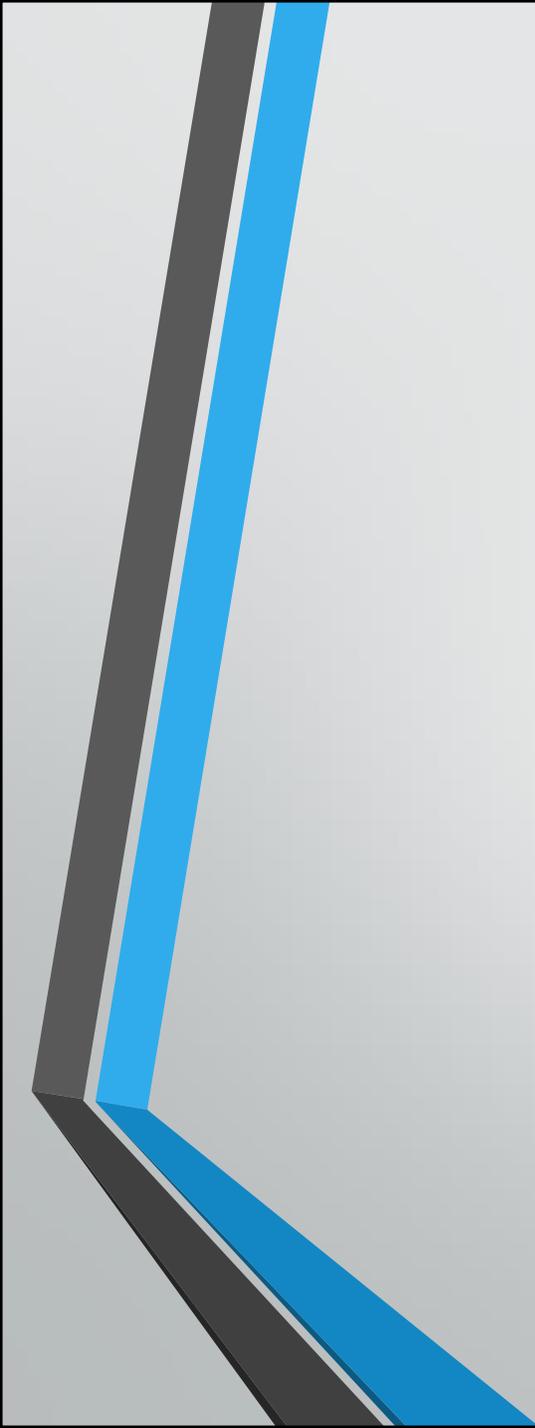




# Qualifications of Elders

Part 7



**Must have his passions under control**

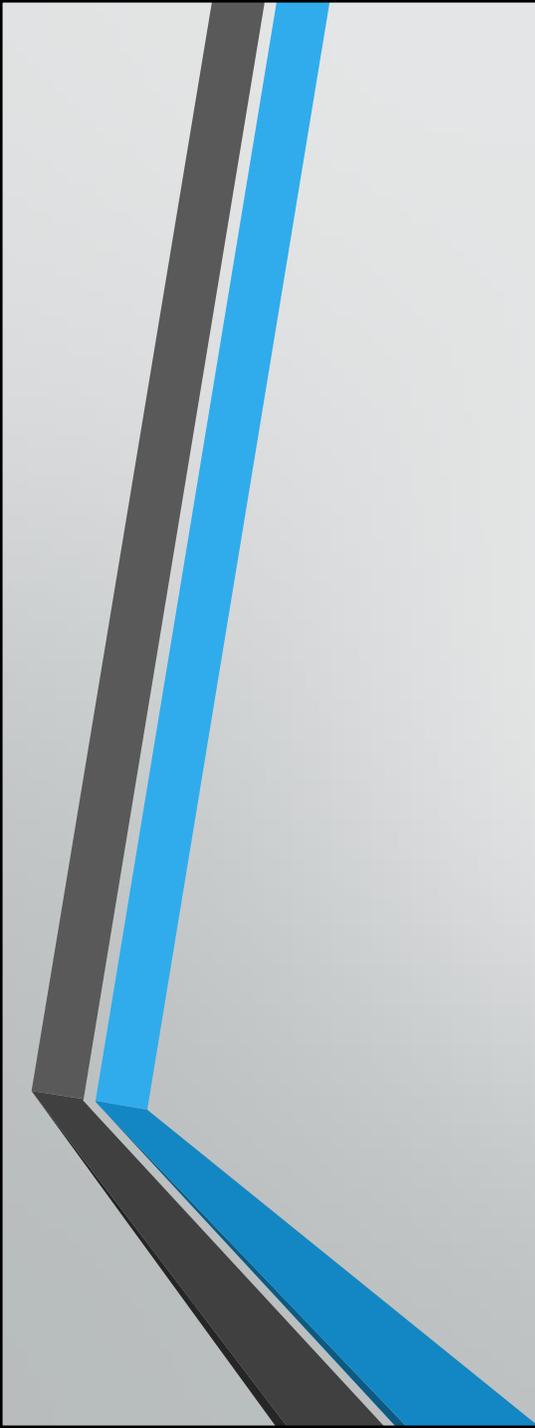
1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7

# Definitions

- **Not quarrelsome** (AMACHOS) lit., not fighting, not contentious; (2) peaceable, not a brawler (*Vine; Strong; Thayer; BDAG*)
- **Not self-willed** (AUTHADES) self-willed, stubborn, arrogant; self-pleasing, one dominated by self-interest, and inconsiderate of others, assertive of his own will (*BDAG; Thayer; Vine*)
- **Not quick tempered** (ME ORGILOS) prone to anger, irascible [irritable, testy - rp]; soon angry; “quick-tempered persons lose no time being angry, and do so with those they ought not, over things they ought not, and far more than they ought...*inclined to anger, quick-tempered* (*Thayer; Vine; BDAG*)

# Application

- Forbids the appointment of a man with an argumentative spirit
  - He cannot have a “chip on his shoulder,” but must contend for the faith – Jude 3
  - He must be a peacemaker – Rom. 12:17-18; Eph. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 2:24-25
- We must reject an arrogant, headstrong man – 1 Pet. 5:3
- He cannot be a hothead – Eph. 4:26; Jas. 1:19-20

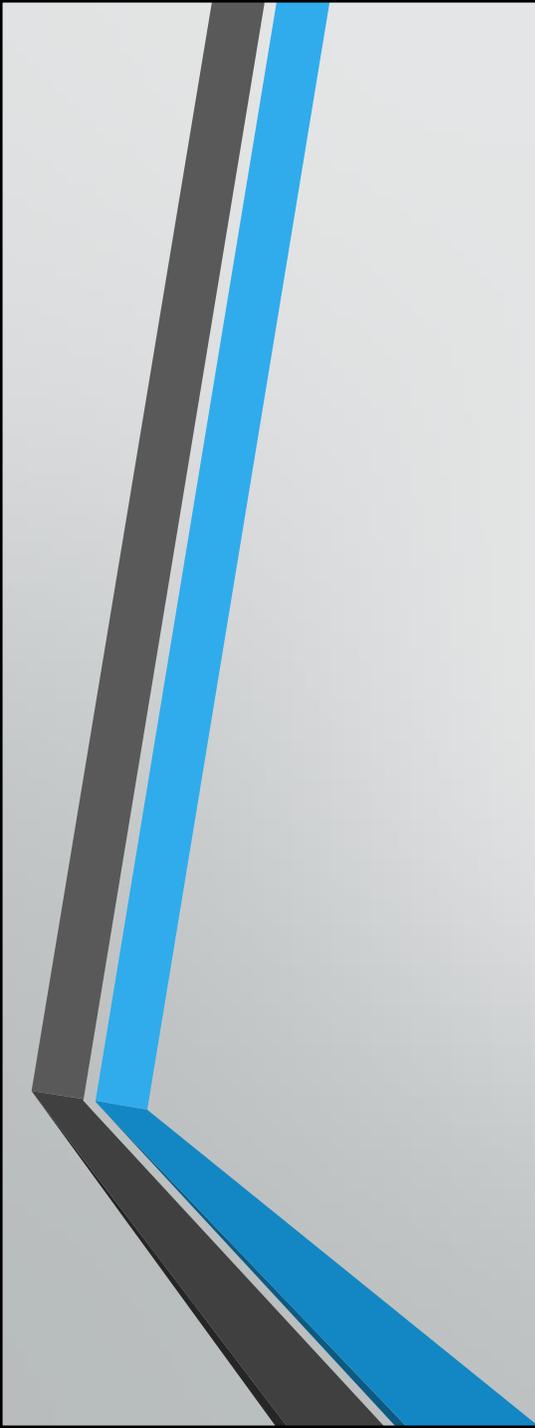


# Not a novice

1 Tim. 3:6

# Definition and Application

- **Novice** – newly-planted, denotes a new convert, inexperienced; (2) a young covert (*Vine; Strong; Thayer; BDAG*)
- A recent convert is not to be appointed as an elder, no matter how old
- Despite his zealousness for the word, etc., he must be rejected because...
  - He lacks the knowledge, wisdom, godly life experience, etc., needed for the work
  - He would be much too likely to be overcome with pride, inclined to self-importance, and “fall into the same condemnation as the devil”

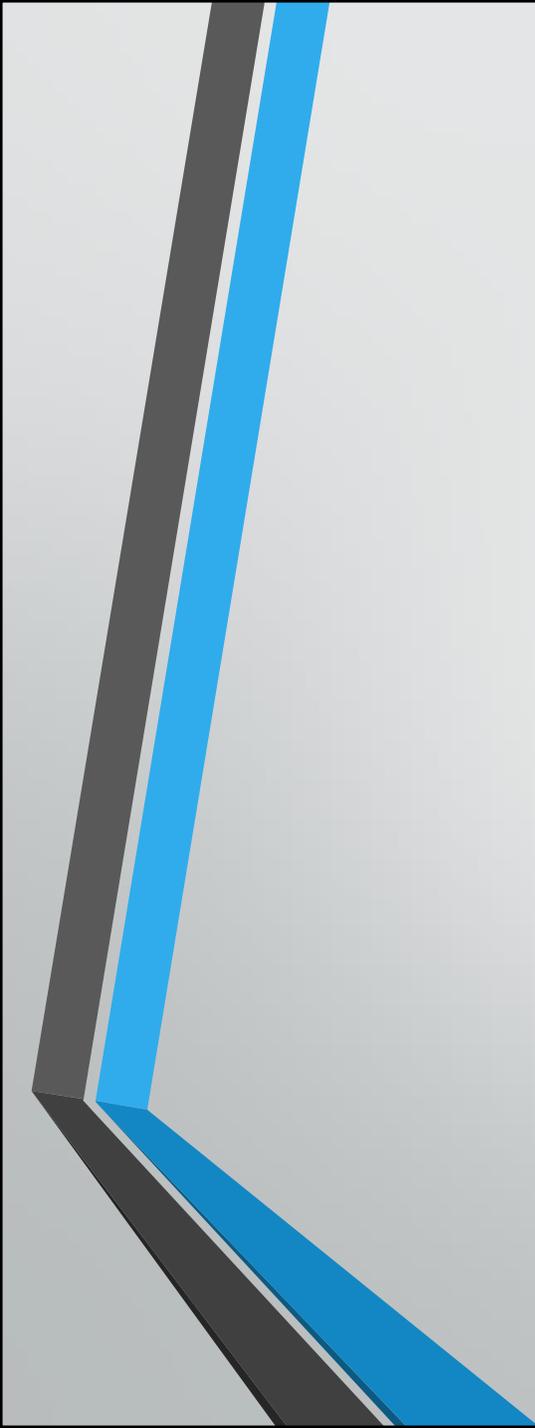


**Must be holy**

Titus 1:8

# Definition and Application

- **Holy** – *right*, of men it means to be devout, pious, pleasing to God, holy; (2) undefiled by sin, free from wickedness (*BDAG, Thayer*)
- Holiness is a way of life lived in “doing **what** God says, the **way** God says, for the **reason** God says it, **because** God said it.” (Kevin Kay)
- This quality is not unique to elders, seeing that all who hope to see God must possess it – Heb. 12:14

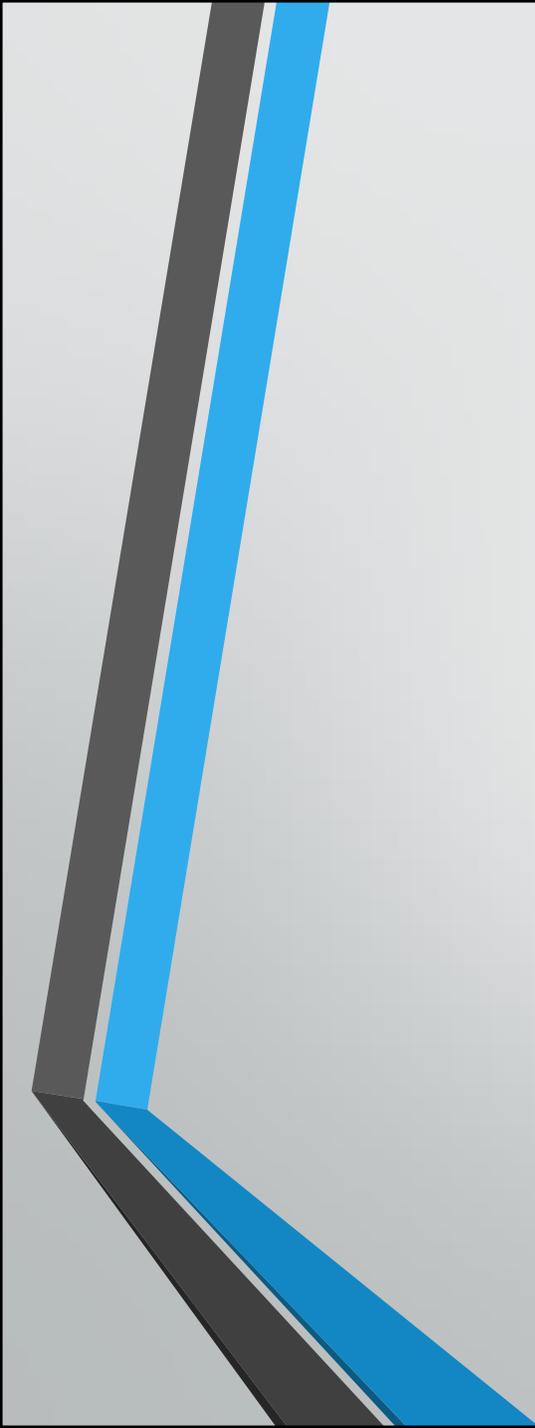


**Must have a good testimony  
among those who are outside**

1 Tim. 3:7

# Definition and Application

- **Good** – virtuous, honest, worthy; (2) morally good, noble, praiseworthy, excellent, beautiful (*Vine; Strong; Thayer; BDAG*)
- **Testimony** – what one testifies, testimony in court, attestation of character or behavior, testimony concerning one's character (*BDAG, Thayer*)
- His life must be so lived that even if judged by those outside of Christ, they will determine him to be morally good, noble, honest, etc.
  - This is important because the church has a public presence within a community established by the conduct of the members
  - The righteous can be maligned by the wicked
  - The validity of such accusations should easily be proven false – 1 Pet. 2:11-12



**Must have faithful wives**

1 Tim. 3:11

# Why would this apply?

- Although this is stated within the qualifications of deacons...
  - This qualification is given in parenthetical style in a context that applies to elders and deacons
  - I struggle to see the sense that a deacon must have this type of wife, while those who oversee them and the local church are exempt
- Must their wives be Christians?
  - Their wives are to be *reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things*
  - One's view of this may be determined by how one views the qualification of having "faithful children."
  - I struggle to understand how a wife could be "faithful in all things," even to her husband, if she refuses to be faithful to God.



**These qualifications are attainable**

# These can easily be deemed impossible!

- It is easy to assume that one who meets these qualifications would have to be a *super-human* Christian
  - Many have so applied them that they are viewed as out of reach
  - Elders are not perfect and will continue to grow even after being appointed – 1 Tim. 5:19-20
- These qualifications are generally expected of all Christians.
  - For a church to exist for many years without elders is almost always wrong!
  - N.T. churches had men who qualified and were appointed—in Judea, Jerusalem, Lystra, Iconium, Antioch, Ephesus, Philippi, Thessalonica, and Crete, in the churches of those Dispersion
  - Some appointed elders quickly – Acts 14:21-23