



The Eldership

Qualifications:

Desire the office

Above Reproach

Husband of One Wife

Aspires to and Desires the Position

- 1 Tim. 3:1

- Though presented as unquestionable truth, there is more.
 - **Aspire:** to reach/stretch out with desire to grasp
 - **Desire:** craving, longing, desire earnestly
 - Aspire indicates *effort* to achieve the goal, while desire refers to one's *longing* to achieve it.
- One must have a **godly desire** for the position because it is "**fine work**" – 1 Tim. 3:1; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:2

Above Reproach

– 1 Tim. 3:2
Titus 1:5-7

- Defined:
 - 1 Tim. 3:2 (*anepilēptos*) – blameless, unrebukable
 - Titus 1:5-7 (*anegkēltos*) – blameless, nothing laid at one's charge (as result of investigation); absence of even a charge or accusation
- This does not mean that any charge against a man disqualifies him.
 - Accusations do not equal guilt
 - Perfection is not a qualification – Gal. 2:11
- It means a man must be able to rightly defend himself against accusations – 1 Tim. 5:19
- An elder must grasp the seriousness of his actions, knowing others are watching.

Husband of One Wife

1 Tim. 3:2

Titus 1:6

- Position 1: He must be **married to a woman**
 - **Correct** because he is to be a *husband* and have a *wife*.
 - **Lacking** because it does not address one being in an *adulterous marriage* or a *polygamist* – 1 Cor. 5:11; 6:9-11
- Position 2: He must be **married to a woman and not a polygamist.**
 - **Correct** in the same areas as Position 1 and in rejecting polygamy.
 - **Lacking** in not addressing the legitimacy of the candidate's marriage – Matt. 19:9

Husband of One Wife

- Position 3: He must be **married** to a **woman**, but **not in a second marriage**
 - **Correct** in the same areas as Position 1.
 - **Lacking** because it is based on a faulty view of MDR – Rom. 7:2-3; Mt. 19:9
 - Some wrongly claim a divorce means the candidate *is no longer above reproach*
- Position 4: He must be **married** to a **woman** and **not a polygamist** nor an **adulterer**
 - **Correct** in addressing marriage's sanctify – Heb. 13:4
 - Question: If an elder's wife dies, is he still qualified?
 - Being a husband requires sacrificial love, being the head, and understanding – Eph. 5:25, 28-29; Eph. 5:22-23; 1 Pet. 3:7