



# The Eldership

## Qualifications:

Temperate

Prudent

Self-controlled

Respectable

Hospitable



# Temperate

- 1 Timothy 3:2 – “An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, **temperate**, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach”



# Temperate

- 1 Tim. 3:2

- Defined: (*nēphalios*) sober, vigilant; abstaining from wine, calm and collected in spirit, dispassionate, circumspect; clear-headed, self-controlled
- Like a good shepherd, an elder must be alert and watchful over God's sheep
  - Elders must watch for spiritual sickness within and threats from without – Acts 20:28-31
  - Elders must be vigilant in providing spiritual nourishment for the health of the sheep – Acts 20:32

## Prudent/ Sensible

- 1 Timothy 3:2 – “An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, **prudent**, respectable, hospitable, able to teach”
- Titus 1:8 – “...hospitable, loving what is good, **sensible**, just, devout, self-controlled”

# Prudent/ Sensible

– 1 Tim. 3:2  
Titus 1:8

- Defined: (*sōphrōn*) of sound mind, self-controlled, sober-minded; curbing one's desires and impulses, temperate; prudent, thoughtful
- Application:
  - One must have shown himself wise, or of sound mind, in dealing with life
  - He is not in the habit of making poor, thoughtless decisions
  - One should not seek the office who often finds himself the victim of his own lack of forethought or who is prone to silliness or frivolity.

# Self- Controlled

- Titus 1:8

- Titus 1:8 – “...hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, **self-controlled**
- Defined: (*egkratēs*) – strong; mastering, controlling one’s self, restraining [of self], temperate, having power over [self], disciplined
- While *sōphrōn* (prudent) emphasizes the soundness of mind and wisdom, *egkratēs* emphasizes the need for *deliberate self-control*
- Application: An elder must be aware of challenges of various situations and be of the mind to control his temper, emotions, and desires
- These qualities can only be added to one’s life through prayer and study of the word – 1 Pet. 2:21-23; James 1:5-6



# Respectable

- 1 Tim. 3:2 – “An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, **respectable**, hospitable, able to teach
- Defined: (*kosmios*) orderly, modest, well-arranged, seemly; decorum [in keeping with good taste, polite, restrained], a well-ordered life, respectable, honorable
- Application:
  - He must be one whose life invokes respect and honor in the eyes of others
  - He is not haphazard concerning his personal life, family, financial matters, or his brethren

# Hospitable

- 1 Timothy 3:2 – “An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, **hospitable**, able to teach”
- Titus 1:8 – “...**hospitable**, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled”



# Hospitable

– 1 Tim. 3:2  
Titus 1:8

- Defined: (*philoxenos*) hospitable; fond of guests, given to (lover of) hospitality; generous to guests
  - Literally “love of strangers,” referring to one who finds joy in entertaining and lodging others
  - Because “strangers” is prominent in the meaning, it is not about reciprocal action
- **Application:**
  - This is a foundational quality of any Christian – Rom. 12:10-13
  - An elder must be an example of hospitableness, willing to use his home, time, and resources for the good of others
  - This is why it is important for us to get out of our “comfort zones” – Heb. 13:1-2