



# The Eldership

## Qualifications:

Able to teach

Not addicted to wine

Not pugnacious

## Able to Teach

1 Tim. 3:2  
Titus 1:9-14

- **Text**: 1 Timothy 3:2 – “An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, **able to teach**”
- **Translations**:
  - Able to teach – NASB, ESV, NKJV, NIV
  - An able teacher – HCSB, NET
- **Defined**: (*didaktikos*) skilled in teaching; (2) instructive; (3) apt (suitable for, able) to teach (*Vine; Strong; Thayer; BDAG*)

# Able to Teach

1 Tim. 3:2  
Titus 1:9-14

- Does not mean an elder must be a capable preacher, though some are – 1 Tim. 5:17
  - Though all preaching must teach, not all teaching is preaching – 1 Pet. 3:1-2; Col. 3:16; Heb. 5:12
  - The point? Since teaching is not necessarily preaching, one can be an able teacher without being a preacher.
- What does **able to teach** require?
  - **2 Tim. 2:23-25** – Ability to communicate God's word to gently correct the erring and restore them to the truth.
  - **Titus 1:9-14** – He must know the word and be able to use it to exhort, to distinguish between truth and error, and to refute those in error.

# Not Addicted To Wine

1 Tim. 3:3  
Titus 1:7

- Text:
  - 1 Timothy 3:3 – “**not addicted to wine** or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.”
  - Titus 1:7 – “For the overseer must be above reproach as God’s steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, **not addicted to wine**, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain”
- Translations:
  - Not addicted to wine – NASB, HCSB
  - Not given to wine – NKJV
  - Not a drunkard – ESV, NET
  - Not given to drunkenness – NIV

# Not Addicted To Wine

1 Tim. 3:3  
Titus 1:7

- Defined:
  - *Wine* (oinos) is a generic term for grape juice, whether fermented or not, as well as drinks made of other succulent fruits.
  - *Mē paroinon* – literally not at, by, near, or with wine
  - **Vine** – not to “tarry at wine,” not “given to wine,” probably has the secondary sense of the effect of wine-bibbing—abusive brawler; (2) **Strong, Mounce** – [not] staying near wine, [not] tippling; (3) **Thayer** – [not] one who sits long at his wine, [not] given to wine, [not] drunken; secondary sense, [not] quarrelsome over wine; [not] abusive, brawler; (5) **BDAG** – [not] addicted to wine.

**Possible  
Meanings:  
“Not  
Addicted To  
Wine”**

- An elder cannot get drunk or be a drunkard
- An elder must avoid the effects of wine, not be a brawler (ASV)
- An elder must not be addicted to wine
- An elder must not drink wine or alcohol

# Examining the Possibilities: “Not Addicted To Wine”

- Eliminate – “cannot get drunk”
  - One cannot be a Christian and be a drunk – Gal. 5:21; 1 Cor. 5:11
  - This would be like saying he cannot be a murderer, immoral, an idolator, etc.
- Eliminate – “must avoid the effects of wine, not be a brawler”
  - Could a man who “holds his liquor well” be an elder?
  - It creates confusion with deacons being “not addicted to **much** wine” – 1 Tim. 3:8

# Examining the Possibilities: “Not Addicted To Wine”

- Possible – “not addicted to wine”
  - Appears to be an acceptable translation
  - “Not addicted to wine” does not imply moderate drinking is acceptable
  - Addiction to any “thing” is to be avoided – 1 Cor. 6:12
- Possible – “cannot drink wine/alcohol”
  - There is a difference in drinking alcohol and using it medicinally – 1 Tim. 5:23
  - He cannot be a *drinker* but can take “Nyquil.”
- Conclusion: An elder cannot be a drinker

# Not Pugnacious

1 Timothy 3:3  
Titus 1:7

- Text:
  - 1 Tim. 3:3 – “**not** addicted to wine or **pugnacious**, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money”
  - Titus 1:7 – “For the overseer must be above reproach as God’s steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, **not pugnacious**, not fond of sordid gain”
- Translations:
  - Not pugnacious – NASB
  - Not violent – ESV, NET, NIV, NKJV
  - Not a bully – HCSB
- Defined: (*mē plēktēs*) **Vine** – not a striker, a brawler; (2) **Strong** – not pugnacious (quarrelsome); (3) **Thayer** – not contentious, not a bruiser, not ready with a blow; (4) **BDAG** – not a bully

# Not Pugnacious

1 Timothy 3:3

Titus 1:7

- An elder cannot be a fighter, one who is quick tempered, who seeks to settle things with fists/force, *not a bully*
- This flaw could be exhibited...
  - In his relationship with brethren – 2 Tim. 2:22-23; Phil. 2:3-4
  - In his dealings with his family – 1 Pet. 3:7; Eph. 6:4
- A violent/bully sort of man will not promote growth and will cause resentment and even division.