



Qualifications of Elders

Part 4 – An Elder and His Children

Texts

- **1 Timothy 3:4-5** – “He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity ⁵ (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)”
- **Titus 1:6** – “namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.”

The Lists

1 Timothy 3:1-7

- **Desire position**
- Above reproach
- Husband of one wife
- **Temperate (self-controlled)**
- Prudent
- **Respectable**
- Hospitable
- **Able to Teach**
- Not addicted to wine
- Not Pugnacious
- **Gentle** (equitable, fair)
- **Peaceable**
- **Free from love of money**
- **Manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity**
- **Not a new convert**
- **Good reputation among those outside**

Titus 1:5-9

- **(Implied)**
- Above reproach
- Husband of one wife
- **Self-controlled**
- Sensible/prudent
- **Devout; Lover of what is good**
- Hospitable
- **Holding fast the faithful word...**
- Not addicted to wine
- Not Pugnacious
- **Just** (equitable, rendering each his due)
- **Not Self-Willed; Not Quick Tempered**
- **Not fond of sordid gain**
- **Having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion**
- **(Implied)**
- **(implied)**

Are the Lists Complete?

- If incomplete:
 - Why would the Spirit give two incomplete lists to two men in different places that required complete lists to do the work?
 - Why do the lists read as though complete?
 - How are we to know how the two men supplemented their list?
- If complete:
 - Each man could use his list to appoint elders
 - The lists must be harmonized
- Conclusion: The lists are complete

Must Have Children

- Text:
 - **1 Timothy 3:4** – “He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping **his children** under control with all dignity”
 - **Titus 1:6** – “namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, **having children** who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.”
- Does **children** mean more than one child?
 - Children is not necessarily plural in the Greek.
 - Defined: (*teknon*) the general term for a child, offspring, children, child, a child (male or female) – **Mounce, Thayer, BDAG**
 - Biblical usage is generic – Eph. 6:4; Titus 2:4
- Conclusion: An elder must have at least one child

Must have Faithful Children

- **1 Timothy 3:4-5** – “He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity ⁵ (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)”
 - Father must **manage** (rule over) his household, controlling children in dignified, or respectable, fashion
 - His children must obey, respect, and honor him, allowing him to lead, counsel, and guide them.
 - **Logic?** If he cannot rule his own house well, how can he care for the church of God?

Must have Believing Children

- **Titus 1:6** – “namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, **having children who believe**, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.”
 - His children must be believing/faithful, though to whom is not specified
 - His children must not be guilty of dissipation/debauchery/wildness – 1 Pet. 4:3-4
 - Not guilty of rebellion/insubordination
- Both sins...
 - Show a lack of faithfulness to their father and to God
 - Have application to older children
- Older men converted out of the world would have children that continued to live like the pagan’s they were raised to be, **disqualifying him.**

What does Believing Children Mean?

- Translations:
 - ASV, ESV, NASB, NIV – “children who believe” or “believing children”
 - KJV, NKJV, NET – “faithful children”
- Defined: (Gk. *pistos*)
 - **BDAG** – “believing (in Christ), a (Christian) believer”
 - **Thayer** – “one convinced Jesus is the Messiah [a believer]”
 - Most commentaries say it means *believing*
- Contextual use:
 - Timothy – faithful/trustworthy (1:12; 3:1; 2 Tim. 2:2); believer (1 Tim. 4:3; 5:16; 6:2)
 - Titus – faithful/trustworthy – 1:9; 3:8

The Correct Conclusion ?

- An elder's children must be faithful, or obedient, to both their earthly father and God.
- Proof of my conclusion (**Titus 1:6**):
 - These are children of accountable age—they can commit debauchery, lewdness, sensuality.
 - If a shepherd loses his own sheep, how will he keep/protect God's sheep?
 - If a man cannot teach his children to believe/obey the gospel, how effective of a teacher can he be for God's children?

The Correct Conclusion ?

- Proof of my conclusion (**1 Timothy 3:4-5**):
 - Can a man's accountable-aged children truly be in submission to him while never submitting to God?
 - Would not refusal to obey the gospel be a rejection of their father's ultimate wish, of who he is, and what he stands for?
 - Would not refusing to obey God be the ultimate form of insubordination/rebellion?
 - If you disagree with this logic, what if they obeyed their father but refused to submit to civil authority?
- **Conclusion: Faithful children means faithful to Christ, which would require faithfulness to their father's rule.**

Must His Children Remain Faithful?

- Believing children has no statute of limitations.
- There must be judgment involved.
 - What if a man has two children and one remains faithful?
 - He has believing children.
- Both situations are subject to the judgment of the elder and the congregation.
- An elder cannot lead a flock if there are serious questions concerning his biblical right to lead.