



Qualifications of Elders

Gentle or Just

Peaceable, Not self-willed, Not quick
tempered

Free from the love of money

Gentle or Just

- **1 Tim. 3:3** – “not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but **gentle**, peaceable, free from the love of money.”
- **Titus 1:8** – “...hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, **just**, devout, self-controlled”

Gentle and Just

- Defined:
 - Gentle (*epieikēs*) **Vine** – equitable, fair, forbearing; not insisting on the letter of the law, considerateness that looks humanely and reasonably at the facts of a case; **Strong** – mild, gentle, moderate, patient; **Thayer** – equitable, fair, mild, gentle; **BDAG** – yielding, gentle, kind
 - Just (*dikaios*) **Strong** – equitable (in character and act), innocent, holy, just, right; **Thayer** – rendering to each his due; and that in a judicial sense, passing just judgment on others; **BDAG** – just, honest, good...perhaps merciful
- What we learn:
 - Addresses how one deals with people problems
 - He does not insist on *rights* over *what is right* – 1 Cor. 6:1, 7

Gentle and Just

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Application

- People problems arise in a congregation that must be settled quickly and biblically to preserve unity and harmony.
- His dealings and judgements must not allow legal rights to triumph over what is right.
- This ability indicates one has gained divine wisdom – Jas. 3:16-17

Peaceable

Not Self-
Willed

Not Quick-
Tempered

- 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:

- 1 Tim. 3:3 – peaceable, not quarrelsome, not contentious
- Titus 1:7 – (1) not self-willed, not arrogant, not overbearing (2) not quick-tempered, not hot-tempered, not prone to anger

Peaceable
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-
Defined

- Peaceable (amachos) **Vine** – (lit. not fighting), not contentious; **Thayer** – not contentious; **BDAG / Strong** – peaceable
- Not self-willed (*authadēs*) **Thayer** – [not] self-pleasing, self-willed, arrogant; **Vine** – [not] self-pleasing, [not] one who, dominated by self-interest, and inconsiderate of others, arrogantly asserts his own will; **BDAG** – [not] self-willed, stubborn, arrogant
- Not quick tempered (*mē orgilos*) **Thayer** – [not] prone to anger, irascible [irritable, testy – rp]; **Vine** – [not] angry, prone to anger, irascible; **BDAG** – [not] inclined to anger, quick-tempered

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Application

- Though confrontation is required, an elder must not have a *contentious* or *confrontational* spirit – Rom. 12:17-18; 2 Tim. 2:24-25
- Though he must stand strongly in the truth, he must not be self-willed, headstrong, or arrogant in his stance.
 - Would not work well with the eldership.
 - Would struggle to see value of the congregation's thoughts and would likely "lord it over" the flock – 1 Pet. 5:3
- He must be peaceable because elders deal with problems and problematic brethren.
- This does not mean he can never be angry; but he must be an angry man – Eph. 4:26-27; Jas. 1:19-20

Free From the Love of Money

- 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**”
- Defined:
 - Free from love of money (*aphilargyros*) lit. “not fond of silver”; **Thayer** – not loving money, not avaricious; **BDAG** – not loving money, not greedy; **Vine** – [not] money-loving
 - Not fond of sordid gain (*aischrokerdēs*) **BDAG** – [not] fond of dishonest gain, greedy for money; **Vine** – [not] greedy of **base gains**; **Thayer** – not eager for base gain

Free From the Love of Money

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Application

- An elder must not love money
 - This is not to be a characteristic of any Christian – Heb. 13:5
 - One who loves money subjects himself to all sorts of temptations – 1 Tim. 6:9-10
 - One who loves money cannot serve two masters – Lk. 16:13
- Must be considered because an elder may be paid – 1 Tim. 5:17; 1 Pet. 5:2
- Prevents a stingy man from being an elder
- Does not bar a rich man from the eldership who properly views and uses riches – 1 Tim. 6:17-19