

FAQ's
Frequently Asked Questions
Concerning Elder Selection

Q: What biblical qualifications should I consider when recommending an individual to serve as elder?

A: Several key Scripture passages should inform your decision. They are: Acts 14:22-23, 20:28, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4.

The most critical attribute of a well-qualified elder is character. Taking our cue from the 1 Timothy and Titus passages referenced above an elder must be:

- **Above reproach**—demonstrates a lifestyle free from the pattern of sin—willing to lead by example.
- **Husband of one wife**—if married, the elder must be a faithful and devoted spouse.
- **Temperate**—exercises self control—free from excesses.
- **Prudent**—wise—not given to snap decisions—uses discernment—sensible—balanced in judgment.
- **Respectable**—good reputation with those inside and outside the church—lives a well-ordered life.
- **Hospitable**—willing to share—unselfish—generous with personal resources.
- **Able to teach**—ability to communicate the truth of Scripture and sound doctrine in a non-argumentative way.
- **Not addicted to wine**—life free from addictions and willing to limit personal liberty for the sake of others.
- **Not pugnacious or quick tempered**—gentle—patient—able to maintain self control during difficult situations.
- **Uncontentious**—not quarrelsome or arrogant.
- **Free from the love of money**—not greedy or materialistic.
- **Manage own household**—has a healthy family life.
- **Not a new convert**—possesses high degree of spiritual maturity.
- **Good reputation with outsiders**—not judgmental or hypocritical.
- **Not self-willed**—has a servant's heart—doesn't force opinions or own will upon others—sensitive and obedient to the promptings of God's Spirit.
- **Loving what is good**—desires the will of God in every situation and unwilling to settle for anything less.
- **Just**—fair and impartial—bases decisions upon sound Scriptural principles.
- **Devout**—fully devoted follower of Christ—committed to own personal spiritual growth through Bible study—shares faith readily—strong prayer life—faithful in worship and fellowship.
- **Holding fast the faithful Word**—obedient to the Word of God—submissive to the Holy Spirit—puts God's Word into practice.

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