

# A Look At What Makes A Good Shepherd

# Biblical Names For Elders

- 1 Pet. 5:1 “Elder” – “*Presbuteros*” – “older men”
- 1 Pet. 5:2 “Feed” – “*Poimeno*” – “Shepherd”  
“tend” “pastor”
- 1 Pet. 5:2 “Overseer” “bishop” – “*Episkope*” – “to look on, inspect, or care for”
- 1 Tim. 5:17 – “rule” – “*Proistemi*” – To be over, superintend, protector, guardian
  - “Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.”

# Sanhedrin Age Requirements

- Similarly, the members of the Sanhedrin must command respect as mature individuals. Therefore, it is preferable that each member be at least 40 years old, unless he is incomparable in wisdom and universally respected. Similarly, it is preferable that the head of the Sanhedrin be at least 50 years old. Under no condition should a person under 18 be appointed to the Sanhedrin.  
—Rabbi Kaplan, Handbook On Jewish Thought

# Priestly Age Requirements

- “All those who were listed of the Levites, whom Moses and Aaron and the chiefs of Israel listed, by their clans and their fathers' houses, from thirty years old up to fifty years old, everyone who could come to do the service of ministry and the service of bearing burdens in the tent of meeting.”

Numbers 4:46,47

# Passages To Consider In Searching Qualified Elders

- Acts 15:6-23
- Acts 20:17-25
- Hebrews 13:17
- 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- 1 Timothy 5:17-20
- Titus 1:5-9
- James 5:14-16
- 1 Peter 5:1-4

# A Look At Some Qualities

# A Little About Interpreting Qualities

- Passages showing qualities in elders are **PRINCIPLES** not **PERFECTIONS**.
  - There are no perfectly qualified elders, or perfect in every quality
  - Not license to put someone in who is poorly qualified with the hopes that they will grow with the position
- Remember to honor basic Bible interpretation skills, honoring all of what the Bible says — e.g. worship, salvation, etc.

# Blameless

- “*anepeelaptos*” 1 Timothy 3:2, “unrebukeable”
- “*anengklaytos*” Titus 1:7 – “unaccused, irreproachable”
- Literally “above reproach”
- Application
  - Not that they have never done anything wrong
  - One’s lifestyle must show respectability, not having been caught up in controversy

# Apt To Teach

- “*didaktikos*” – Lit. “Instructive”
- Used twice in Scripture, the other in 2 Timothy 2:24 to Timothy – “And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, **able to teach**, patiently enduring evil.”
- Application
  - Not that he must be a good Bible class teacher
  - He must be one who is **willing and able** to instruct others toward a mature Christian understanding and duty

# The Husband Of One Wife

- 2 Passages — 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6
- Literally “a one-woman man”
- Application
  - One who is committed to one woman
  - This would include a widower who has remarried a person who has the right to be married. cf. Romans 7:1-3
  - A scripturally divorced and remarried person is consistent with the text, cf. Matthew 19:9
  - A widower is still a “one-woman man”

# Given To Hospitality

- 1 Timothy 3:2 “hospitable” (ESV)
- Literally “Friend of Strangers”
- Titus 1:8 – “A lover of hospitality”
- Application
  - An elder can not be in his own shell
  - He needs to be the kind of person who never meets a stranger
  - It must be understood in connection with opening their home for fellowship – cf. Hebrews 13:2 – “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” cf. Gen. 18

# Believing, Faithful Children

- Titus 1:6 – Only found in one passage
- “*pistos*” – faithful, trustworthy, reliable, believing, sure, true, and unflinching
- “Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, **faithful** (*pistos*) in all things.” 1 Timothy 3:11
- To be understood in the wider theme of the need for a man to rule over his household, 1 Timothy 3:4,5, Titus 1:6
  - One who is under subjection to his father.

# Believing, Faithful Children

- Children who have left home are not under their father's subjection. This quality calls for children who are under their father's subjection to be subject to them. Cf. Ezekiel 18:20
- Not necessarily a baptized believer. Cf. John 12:42 – “Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue.”
- Hence, an elder should be able to be seen as one who is, in the eyes of the general body of Christ, as being the head of his home, and all members, including his children, respect his leadership.

# Believing, Faithful Children

- What about plurality of children?
- Children vs. Child = Singular vs. Plural
  - “*teknon*” – Titus 1:6 – “having faithful **children**”
  - “*teknon*” – Titus 1:4 – “To Titus, my true **child**”
- Ephesians 6:1 – “Children “*teknon*” obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”

# Not Given To Wine

- 1 Timothy 3:3 – “**not a drunkard**” (ESV)
- “*paroinos*” – [no brawler] (ASV)
- Literally [*not staying near wine*]
- Footnote KJV – “The Greek includes besides this, not indulging in the brawling, violent conduct towards others, which proceeds from being given to wine. The opposite of "patient" or (Greek) "forbearing," reasonable to others.
- Contrasted To The Deacon in 1 Timothy 3:8 – “not given to much wine.” – Literally [not addicted to much wine]
- Timothy was a good example of the deacon – 1 Timothy 5:23 – “No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.”
  - Only for medicinal purposes – Not affecting sobriety
  - Elders should not drink alcoholic beverages either privately or publicly