

The Special Qualifications of an Elder/Shepherd





6/24-6/26

July 24th - 28th

9:30^{am} - 12:30^{pm}

FOR AGES

3-13

These Qualifications are not Optional

“An overseer, then, must be above reproach, etc” (I Tim 3:2).



“Special” Qualifications

“It is a trustworthy statement, if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a *fine work* he desires to do” (1 Tim 3:1). See: Titus 1:6

- “**Husband**” of one wife - vs 2
- Man = *Necessarily inferred*.



“Special” Qualifications

“An overseer must not be a **new convert**, (a **novice** KJV)” . . . (I Tim 3:6)

“so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil” (I Tim 3:7).



“Special” Qualifications

- “It is a trustworthy statement, if any man aspires to (desires) the office of overseer, it is a **fine (noble NIV) work he desires to do**” (I Tim 3:1).
- “Not because you must, but ***because you are willing, eager to serve***” (I Peter 5:1).



“Special” Qualifications

“An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife (I Tim 3:2; Titus 1:6).” NASU

- Literally: “A one woman man.”

Speaks to the man's morality



“Husband of one Wife”

- False Positions:

- “If married, only to have one wife.”
- Forbids any second marriages.
 - Rm 7:2 “If a husband dies she is discharged from the law of the husband.”



“Husband of one Wife”

- **Positive affirmations:**
 - Must **be married** – not single!
 - Must be married to a **woman** – not a man.
 - Must be married to **one wife** – no polygamist can qualify.



“Husband of one Wife”

- CAN A WIDOWER MEET THESE QUALIFICATIONS?



“Special” Qualifications

“If a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful (believing) children not accused of dissipation or insubordination” (Titus 1:6). NKJV

“A man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being **wild and disobedient.** (NIV)



Four Positive Affirmations:

- Must have **his own family** (not single).
- Must have **children** (adopted/biological).
- Must have **believing (faithful) children**.
- Must have these children in **subjection**.



Does believing (faithful) children = **Christians**?

- I Tim 3:11: Word -“Faithful” = Wives of church leaders = “Faithful in all things.”
- II Tim 2:2 “Commit these things to faithful men, who will teach others also.”



Does believing (faithful) children = Christians?

- Some: Children must be “trustworthy.”
- Most translations = “Believe.”
- Gk authorities:
 - Thayer – “One who is convinced Jesus is the Messiah and the author of salvation (a believer).”
 - Arndt & Gingrich – “Believing (in Christ), a Christian believer.”
- Commentaries overwhelmingly agree!

Is **one child** acceptable?

How is “**children**” used?

Gen 21:7:

“Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse **children**? Yet I have borne him **a son** in his old age.” NASU

One or more!



How is “children” used?

- “But if a widow has **children** or grandchildren . . .” (1 Tim 5:4). NIV
- “No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is well known for her good deeds, such as **bringing up children**, showing hospitality” (1 Tim 5: 9-10).



“Special” Qualifications

*I Tim 3:4 : He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (*but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God*)?*



What if unfaithfulness occurs after children have left?

- 1 Tim 3:4 “Rule his own household well.”
- What about the truism of Prov 22:6?
 - Isa 1:2 “*For Jehovah hath spoken: I have nourished and brought up children and they have rebelled against Me.*”
 - However, if most/or all fall away, it would be a great cause for concern.



“Special” Qualifications

Commodianus (240 AD)

“Elders should be *teachers*, and the *first to practice what they teach*.”

Origin (248 AD)

“We exhort those who are mighty in word and blameless in life to rule over the churches. May their rule be in accordance with the divine commands and may they not be led astray by worldly policy.”

“Special” Qualifications

“He must be especially capable with the Word” (I Tim 3:2, Titus 1:9).

- “Apt to teach” (I Tim 3:2). KJV
- “Hold fast to the faithful word and be able to exhort and convince the gainsayer”(Titus 1:9). KJV



The Special Qualifications of a Shepherd

Sunday – June 5, 2022

