

Elders of the Lord's Church

God has always had a specific design for the leadership of His church. Christ is the head of the church, and because of the death that He suffered on the cross, He has all authority in the church (*Col. 1:18*). God has also always intended for there to be elders in His church to serve as overseers. Because there were no elders in the church on the island of Crete, Paul tells Titus to “*set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city*” (*Titus 1:5*).

God also wants the elders to meet certain qualifications. These qualifications are not something that is achieved overnight. It takes a lifetime of work in order to be able to serve as an elder. Notice these qualifications as they are listed in I Tim. 3:1-7.

1. A man must desire the position of an elder.
2. He must be blameless.
3. He must be the husband of one wife.
4. He must be temperate.
5. He must be sober-minded.
6. He must be of good behavior.
7. He must be hospitable.
8. He must be able to teach.
9. He must not be given to wine.
10. He must not be violent.
11. He must not be greedy for money.
12. He must be gentle.
13. He must not be quarrelsome.
14. He must not be covetous.
15. He must rule his own house well, including his children.
16. He must not be a novice in the word of God.
17. He must also have a good reputation.

As you can see, the qualifications for becoming an elder are very strict. The reason they are strict is because of the important work of the elders. They are the ones who oversee the church on this earth. They are responsible for feeding the church with the truths of God (*I Pet. 5:2*). They are the ones who are responsible for making sure that no false doctrine is taught (*Titus 1:10-16*). They will also have to give an answer for how they served as elders (*Heb. 13:17*). Being an elder is a serious job with serious responsibilities. May we all do what we can to encourage the elders as they serve the Lord's church.