

## SCRIPTURAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTING ELDERS (Titus 1:6-9)

### A. The SCOOP on SPIRITUAL LEADERS.

1. The *One True Head* of the Church is \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 1:18-23; Col. 1:15-18), not a pastor, priest, or pope. He directs His Church through the Holy Spirit in keeping with His \_\_\_\_\_ through utilizing \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual leaders.
2. The *names* of these spiritual leaders are \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 4:11), \_\_\_\_\_ (Tit. 1:5), or \_\_\_\_\_ (Tit. 1:6; 1 Pet. 5:2) which refer to the same group of spiritual leaders (Acts 20:17, 28). How does this relate to the deacons? (1 Tim. 3:8-12)
3. While a *plurality of elders* is modeled in the NT, it is not \_\_\_\_\_ {if they are not qualified}, nor does it exclude the possibility of having a \_\_\_\_\_ as a leader among the leaders as set forth in the synagogue model (Acts 18:8, 17) and as demonstrated by the early church (Acts 12:17, 15:13, 21:18; 1 & 2 Timothy; Rev. 2 &3).

### B. The Scriptural CRITERIA for PASTORS / ELDERS is NOT a person's ...

### C. The GENERAL OBSERVATIONS about PASTORS / ELDERS:

1. The qualifications assume the person is a \_\_\_\_\_ and apply to \_\_\_\_\_ only. (Tit. 1:6; 1 Tim. 2:9-15) Are the reasons for this cultural so as to not apply for today?
2. The qualifications are a \_\_\_\_\_, not a maybe. (Titus 1:7)
3. The qualifications stress \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, not giftedness.
4. The qualifications over-riding requirement is \_\_\_\_\_, not perfection. (Tit. 1:6, 7)
5. The qualifications evaluate where the pastor's life is \_\_\_\_\_, not where he may have been in the past. (Tit. 1:7)
6. The qualification involves an \_\_\_\_\_ for the work of shepherding, not for the office. (1Tim. 3:1)
7. The qualifications involve both negative and positive qualifications that address the prospective elder's \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ . (Tit. 1:6-9)

### D. The SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS of a PASTOR / ELDER. (Tit. 1:6-9) He must be ...

1. *Regarding his marriage* ... \_\_\_\_\_ - the husband of one wife. (1:6a)  
Literally a "one-woman" man. What does this mean? Options & clarifications:

2. *Regarding his family ... having* \_\_\_\_\_, {who are} **not** {rightfully} **accused of** \_\_\_\_\_ **or** \_\_\_\_\_. (1:6b) What does this mean & why would this be important?

*Regarding Character Traits - Negatively ...*

3. **not** \_\_\_\_\_ {self-willed or self-seeking; arrogant & despising authority; he is to be a team player; not driven by strong self-dependence or an attitude of entitlement; not acting like a “lord”... **as a steward of God. (1:7a).**
4. **not** \_\_\_\_\_ (1:7b) – not easily provoked which is important when dealing with immature sheep. This does not preclude righteous anger over sins such as abuse, molestation, etc. or even false gospels and false teachings {Gal. 1:6-9} or false accusations {2 Cor. 10-12}.
5. **not** \_\_\_\_\_ (1:7c) - not addicted to wine; a drunkard; a heavy drinker; does not demand total abstinence from alcohol; doesn't surrender his body to any substance per se; however, he uses Christian liberty wisely to serve Christ and not stumble others (1 Cor. 8:11; 1 Tim. 5:23).
6. **not** \_\_\_\_\_ (1:7d) - not a striker, violent, pugnacious, a bully; or verbally abusive.
7. **not** \_\_\_\_\_ (1:7e) – not characterized by covetousness but contentment, nor driven by money & what it can do

*Regarding Character Traits - Positively ... “but” {rather, but, instead}*

8. \_\_\_\_\_ (1:8a) - lover of strangers; hospitable; generous; easily overcomes the differences to make them feel welcome; 1 Peter 4:9; 3 John 5-8.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ (1:8b) What does this involve?
10. \_\_\_\_\_ (1:8b) – reasonable, exercising sound judgment based upon principle & not emotions – 2:2, 5, 6, 12.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ (1:8c) - just; fair in his relationships w others; embracing what is right & doing it; a person of his word within reason.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ (1:8d) - set apart to God; devout in his walk w the Lord.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ (1:8e) - self-controlled; disciplined, unlike the Cretans.

*Regarding Doctrinal Faithfulness & Discernment ...*

14. \_\_\_\_\_ **the faithful word** \_\_\_\_\_, **that he may be able,** \_\_\_\_\_, **both to exhort and convict those who contradict** {oppose}. (1:9)
- What is included in 1 Timothy 3 that is implied but not stated specifically in Titus 1?
  - What about the elder's / pastor's wife? (1 Tim. 3:11)
  - What did this evaluation / confirmation process of elders & deacons look like then & today? (1 Tim. 3:10) How does this apply to DBC and our present needs?