

March 5, 2017

The terms overseer, elder and pastor are used interchangeably in the New Testament.

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 1 Timothy 3:1 (ESV)

shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 1 Peter 5:2 (ESV)

A church leader should have a God-given inner desire to serve the church and they should be taking steps to prepare to lead.

1. A church leader must be above reproach.

Therefore an overseer must be above reproach,...

not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 1 Peter 5:3 (ESV)

2. A church leader must be a one-woman man.

...the husband of one wife...

"I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin? Job 31:1 (ESV)

1. Don't take a second look
2. Read God's Word. It keeps us from sin (Psalm 119:11).
3. Pour your affections into your wife.

3. A church leader must possess self-discipline.

...sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable...

- Sober-minded literally means wineless. Alcohol was forbidden for priests on duty (Leviticus 10:9). It was also forbidden for kings and rulers (Proverbs 31:4).
- Self-control means a well-disciplined mind that is able to exercise self-restraint.
- Respectable means a well-ordered life

4. A church leader must be hospitable.

...hospitable...

...seek to show hospitality. Romans 12:13 (ESV)

Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay. 1 Peter 4:9 (NLT)

5. A church leader must be able to teach.

...able to teach...

6. A church leader must not be a drunkard.

...not a drunkard,...

7. A church leader must not be violent but gentle.

...not violent but gentle...

8. A church leader must not be quarrelsome.

...not quarrelsome...

9. A church leader must not be a lover of money.

...not a lover of money...

10. A church leader must manage his own family well.

He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 1 Timothy 3:4-5 (ESV)

if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. Titus 1:6 (ESV)

11. A church leader must not be a new Christian.

He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 1 Timothy 3:6 (ESV)

12. A church leader must be well thought of by outsiders.

Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. 1 Timothy 3:7 (ESV)

Applications:

1. If you are a young man, is God calling you to be a future church leader? Examine your life and take steps to prepare.
2. Most of the qualifications for a church leader's life are the qualifications of a healthy Christian life. What area(s) of life did God prompt you to work on this week?

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March 12 - 1 Timothy 3:8-13 - The Qualifications Of Deacons
 March 19 - 1 Timothy 3:14-16 - The Church Is A Pillar Of The Truth



1 Timothy 3:1-7

The Qualifications Of Elders