

1. The leadership of any church determines the spiritual growth and wellbeing of its members
 - it is crucial that every elder of every church be the one that God has called, gifted and foreordained for that specific place and ministry
2. The one called by the Lord Jesus to lead and oversee a local church will aspire to the office of elder
 - #3713 ὀρέγω *oregomai*
 - = to stretch one's self out in order to touch or grasp something
 - = to strive to attain, to long after
 - = to be ambitious for
 - in 1 Timothy 3:1 this verb is in the middle voice → God is in his aspiring
3. His ambition is a mature and godly aspiring:
 - a) it is free of selfishness, seeking only the glory of God and the good of others
 - b) it does not seek position, praise, power, prestige or popularity but service to God
 - c) it has at its heart the GLORIFICATION of God, the BUILDING UP of the church and the EVANGELIZING of the lost

- * The list of qualifications that an elder must demonstrate is long and it takes into account every area of life
 - in all things he is to be above reproach
 - #S423 ἀνεπίλημτος *anepileptos* (1T)
 - = not open to blame, above criticism
 - = having nothing on which an adversary could base a charge
 - #410 ἀνέγκλητος *anegkletos* (T)
 - = blameless, free from accusation
 - this indicates a general maturity, not perfection with no room for growth (Phil 3:10-14)

- * The sought after qualities can be seen in a potential elder's most basic relationships

A. TO GOD AND THE SCRIPTURE

- 1) not a new convert
 - not one who has recently been saved
 - does he truly know the Lord?
 - has he demonstrated a growing spiritual maturity?
- 2) devout
 - #3741 ὅσιος *hosios*
 - = holy, undefiled by sin
 - = observing every moral obligation
 - does he show an active commitment to know, love and serve God?

- 3) holding fast the faithful word
 - #472 ἀντέχω *antechomai*
 - = to cling to, to cleave firmly to
 - is he a diligent student of the Word?
- able to teach
 - does he know the Word well enough to be able to teach it to others?
 - to exhort in sound doctrine?
 - to refute those who contradict?

B. TO HIS FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD

- 1) the husband of one wife
 - is he a one woman man?
 - is he totally devoted and faithful to his own wife?
- 2) able to manage his own household well
 - #4291 προϊστημι *proistemi*
 - = to superintend, preside over
 - = to guide, lead, direct
 - a) his wife must be dignified, not a malicious gossip, temperate, faithful in all things (1 Tim 3:11)
 - b) he must have believing and obedient children whom he keeps under control with dignity
 - his home and family life will indicate how well he will be able to take care of the church of God