

Finding Elders Acts 20:28-35

Demonstrate Ability

Good Work - Not a figurehead, workman

We can only know man as we see him demonstrate himself in action

Must - Not suggestions, requirements

All these qualities must be considered

All these qualities must be present and prominent in a man's life before he can be appointed as an elder - **1Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-11; 1Peter 5:1-4**

General

Man - Women do not qualify

Desire to serve – to stretch oneself out to touch or to grasp something, to reach after or desire something

Not lords over – to bring under one's power, to subject oneself, to subdue, master; to hold in subjection, to be master of, exercise lordship over

Reputation

Good report with them without – Well thought of by people outside

Not a novice – newly planted; a new convert

Must be proved – to test, examine, prove, scrutinize; to recognize as genuine after examination, to approve, deem worthy

Ability

Apt to teach – apt and skillful in teaching

Exhort and convince by sound doctrine – Reprove, rebuke, exhort

Home

Husband of one wife – Man married to only one woman

Rules own house well – Leader of the household

Children in subjection – the act of subjecting; obedience, subjection

Faithful (believing) Children – Obedient to God

Positive Character

Blameless – not apprehended, that cannot be laid hold of; that cannot be reprehended, not open to censure, irreproachable

Vigilant – sober, temperate, focus, watchful, steadfast

Temperate – strong, robust; having power over, possessed of; mastering, controlling, curbing, restraining; controlling oneself, temperate, continent

Sober – of a sound mind, sane, in one's senses; curbing one's desires and impulses, self-controlled, temperate

Good behavior – well arranged, seemly, modest

Lover of hospitality – hospitable, generous to guests

Patient – seemingly, suitable; equitable, fair, mild, gentle

Lover of good men – loving goodness

Just – righteous, observing divine laws; in a wide sense, upright, righteous, virtuous, keeping the commands of God; in a narrower sense, rendering to each his due and that in a judicial sense, passing just judgment on others, whether expressed in words or shown by the manner of dealing with them

Holy – undefiled by sin, free from wickedness, religiously observing every moral obligation, pure holy, pious

Negative Character

Not given to wine – drunken

No striker – bruiser, ready for a blow; a pugnacious, contentious, quarrelsome person

Not greedy of filthy lucre – eager for base gain, greedy for money

Not a brawler – not to be withstood, invincible; not contentious; abstaining from fighting

Not covetous – not loving money

Not self-willed – self-pleasing, self-willed, arrogant

Not soon angry – prone to anger

Elder Material?

Desires a good work - **1Timothy 3:1**

Christian Qualities or Elder Qualities?

What can you do to change? - **2Peter 3:18**

May not desire work of Elder

Still must Grow - **1Peter 2:2**

Ever reaching further in service to God - **1Corinthians 15:58**

DLH