

Theme: Elders are men with godly family lives and character, and who understand the faith and are able to encourage believers in the truth and correct error.

I. Intro – Impeachment of Pres. Clinton

- A. Impeachment of Pres. Clinton was big news
- B. One key question: What makes a good leader
- C. Does character matter?
- D. What qualifications was Titus to look for in elders?

II. A Blameless Man?

- A. Paul says he must be blameless – twice! (6-7)
- B. The real idea – free from accusation (Col 1:22)
- C. No one is perfect (Augustine) – looking for godly men

III. A Godly Family Life

- A. A godly husband - Husband of but one wife (v6)
 - 1. 5 options – married, polygamy, widow, divorce, faithful
 - 2. I think it means faithful (incl. sexual purity)
- B. A godly father – children who believe (v6)
 - 1. Pistos – believe or faithful?
 - 2. Faithful – rest of vs; 1 Tim 3:4-5; can't make believe
- C. The reason – shows his leadership in God's house

- 1. Overseer is steward over God's house (v7)
- 2. Can't rule house, can't rule church (1Ti 3:4-5)

IV. A Godly Character

- A. He must avoid evil - no excess (v7)
 - 1. A list of 5 flaws to avoid (v7)
 - 2. Self control w/ people, alcohol, money
 - 3. He should not be given to excess
- B. He must pursue good – positive character (v8)
 - 1. A list of 6 positive traits (v8)
 - 2. He must not only avoid evil – pursue good
 - 3. He sets the example of godly character
- C. Leaders are only as good as their character
 - 1. Flawed character will cause them to fall
 - 2. Flawed character will be reproduced

V. A Grasp of Godly Truth

- A. He must have firm grasp of God's Word
 - 1. Grasp Word as it has been taught (v9)
 - 2. Character not enough – spiritual work!

3. Not a genius , but must be man of Word (Chrysostom)
 4. Must understand doctrinal truth – THE faith
- B. Two reasons for this requirement (so that – v9)
1. Encourage believers by sound doctrine (v9)
 2. Refute those who oppose truth (v9)
- C. Importance of Word for health and protection - Jerome

VI. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Always look for this in church leaders
1. They must meet these qualifications
 2. Being good at business, talking not enough
- B. Are you growing in these areas – all should
1. Elders not special class; living example for all
 2. Does your family model the kingdom?
 - a. Are you faithful to your spouse?
 - b. Are your children well behaved, respectful?
 3. Are you growing in Christ-likeness?
 - a. Are you avoiding sin and excess?
 - b. Are you developing positive traits?

4. Are you growing in the Word?

- a. Do you know the truth?
- b. Can you refute error?

The Qualifications for An Elder

Titus 1:5-9

April 23, 2006

We'll Be Faithful/Step By Step

Psalm 20

22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and **free from accusation--** Colossians 1:22

he does not say, if anyone is without sin. For if he were to say this, every person would be rejected, no one would be ordained – Augustine, ACCS, 286.

4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. 5 (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) 1 Timothy 3:4-5

4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. 5 (**If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?**) 1 Timothy 3:4-5

there is not need of pomp of words, but of strong minds, of skill in the Scriptures and of powerful thoughts – Chrysostom, ACCS, 288.

In fact, want of education in a clergyman prevents him from doing good to anyone but himself. Even if the virtue of his life may build up Christ's church, he does it an injury as great by failing to resist those who are trying to pull it down. Jerome