

Qualifications of Elders

Introduction:

- A. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the popular Governor of California, can never be President of the United States. Since he is not a natural born citizen, it would violate the Constitution.
- B. “God has probably required more of a man in order to serve as an elder than any country in the world requires of its highest leader.” (Lowell Williams)
- C. What are the scriptural qualifications a man must meet to become an elder?

I. Kinds of Qualifications: There are five types of qualifications for elders and a reason for each.

Kind of Qualification	Reason	Proof
A. character	the steward of God	Titus 1:7; cf. Hebrews 13:17
B. reputation	lest he fall into reproach	1 Timothy 3:7
C. ability	may be able to exhort and convince	Titus 1:9
D. family	prove his ability to rule	1 Timothy 3:5
E. experience	prevent pride	1 Timothy 3:6

II. 1 Timothy 3:1-7

- A. blameless: He must have no deficiencies of character or uncorrected sins that would keep him from being an example to Christians. - Hebrews 13:7; 1 Peter 5:3
- B. the husband of one wife
- C. vigilant: “sober, temperate, abstaining from wine” (Thayer. 613)
- D. sober: “of sound mind ...; hence, self-controlled, sober-minded” (Vine 4:45); “prudent, thoughtful” .Arndt & Gingrich. 810)
- E. of good behavior: “a well-ordered life” (Thayer. 356)
- F. given to hospitality: “not what is now meant by that word; namely, the keeping of a good table and an open house for one's friends... who are able to make him a return in kind; but it consisted in entertaining strangers...; the poor also, and the persecuted...”(MacKnight 451)
- G. apt to teach: “not merely the ability, but also the willingness, to teach” (**Expositor's Greek Testament**. 4:112).
- H. not given to wine: not one who actually drinks or one who behaves like a drinker, i.e., is quarrelsome and brawling
- I. no striker: “a pugnacious, contentious, quarrelsome person” (Vine. 4:83).
- J. not greedy of filthy lucre: “greedy of base gains” (Vine. 3:24); either by gaining money or material possessions through dishonest, illegal, or immoral avenues, or by being more concerned with money than with the Lord
- K. patient: “reasonable and gentle” (Alford. 3:323)
- L. not a brawler: “not contentious” (Vine: 1:146; so Thayer. 31)
- M. not covetous: “not loving money, not greedy” (Arndt & Gingrich. 126)

- N. ruleth well his own house

- 1. subjection: “obedience” (Arndt & Gingrich. 855; Thayer. 645)
- 2. gravity: “that characteristic of a pers, ... which entitles to reverence or respect” (Thayer. 573)
- O. not a novice: “not a new convert” (NASB)
- P. reproach - “disgrace” (ESV, ISV)
- Q. a good report of them which are without: “a good reputation with those outside the church” (NASB)

III. Titus 1:5-9

- A. faithful children: “[Believing.] How shall he bring others to the faith, who could not bring his children?” (Bengel. 2:559)
 - 1. not accused of riot: “of a dissolute, debauched, profligate manner of living” (Trench. 55)
 - 2. or unruly
 - a. “that cannot be subjected to control, disobedient, unruly” (Thayer. 52)
 - b. “rebellious” (Arndt & Gingrich. 76)
- B. not self-willed: “denotes one who, dominated by self-interest, and inconsiderate of others, arrogantly asserts his own will” (Vine. 3:342)
- C. not soon angry: “not quick-tempered” (NKJV, NASB)
- D. a lover of good men: “a lover of what is good” (ASV, NKJV, other translations and lexicons agree); cf. Philippians 4:8
- E. just: *righteous, observing divine and human laws; one who is such as he ought to be....2. In a narrower sense, rendering to each his due; and that in a judicial sense, passing just judgment on others* (Thayer. 148-49)
- F. holy: “pure from evil conduct, and observant of God's will” (Vine. 2:227)
- G. temperate: “self-controlled” (ASV, NKJV, NASB, and lexicons)
- H. holding fast the faithful word : “cling to the trustworthy message” (Arndt & Gingrich. 215); verse 9

Conclusion:

- A. To perform the important task of a bishop, a man **MUST** have these qualifications. - 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:7
- B. “Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you” men possessing these qualities, “whom we may appoint over: this church. - Acts 6:3