**Who Are To Be Elders?**

**1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9**

**Common Approaches Churches Take To These Passages**

1. Take the lists from **1 Tim. 3** and **Titus 1** to make **one checklist**
2. Disqualify a man for any instance of violating any qualification
3. Focus on the quantifiable qualifications (**#** of wives and baptized children)
4. Avoid judgments that are “too personal”

HOW WERE TIMOTHY AND TITUS TO EACH USE HIS LIST?

With different lists, would they have appointed different men?

**Qualities Vs. Qualifications**

Emphasis on **moral** quality, **character**, **spiritual** depth of one’s **total life** vs. a single instance of getting angry, etc.

Emphasis on **proven** character and **competence** needed to do his work of supervising spiritual growth of every member vs. focus on irrelevant requirements

Recognition that a man may be **accused** of reproach, but emphasis is on the man being **above** reproach **Titus 2:8** vs. disqualifying a man over any objection raised by an unspiritual member of the church

Recognition of the context of the epistles to Timothy and Titus (and the passages within each epistle) vs. a man-made checklist that ignores the biblical context of each passage used

**Two Different Lists (1 Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9)**

Neither list is exhaustive (Both lists together are **not exhaustive**)

The two lists are **independent** & **sufficient**

The two lists are **different** in **specifics**

The two lists are the **same** in **character**

**The Character of Each List**

Same in character described

Each list emphasizes one qualification: “blameless”

DANGER! Some have used this approach to redefine the meaning of the entire passage so that any “blameless” person may be qualified:

A childless man

A single man

A woman

We must understand what blameless means

Do we define blameless or does **God define** it?

**1 Timothy 3:2-7**

A bishop then must be **blameless**, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.

Moreover he must have a **good testimony** among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

**Titus 1:6-9**

if a man is **blameless**, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.

For a bishop must be **blameless**, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

**More Than Character**

How does “***husband of one wife***” demonstrate successful spiritual leadership?

Must be married?

Must never have divorced?

May not marry after his wife dies?

How does “***having faithful children***” demonstrate successful spiritual leadership?

Faithful to God or to parents?

100% faithful?

After they leave home?

What if they are still too young?

**More than blameless**

Specifics are essential to being above reproach or blameless

Family description reflective of **competence** as a spiritual leader **1 Tim. 3:5**

“Likewise…first be tested” **1 Tim. 3:8-12**

**Proven character** + **proven competence** = **blameless** in this context of spiritual **leadership**

Proving ground is the home