

God's Household, Part 7: "Recognizing Elders"

1 Timothy 3:1-7

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*Let us raise up elders in the church
who are exemplary disciples of Christ.*

I. The Task of Eldership (v. 1)

1 Timothy 3:1 (ESV): *1 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.*

"Why is the office of eldership a role for men in the church to aspire for?"

Answer: Elders are responsible to shepherd God's church towards maturity. See Acts 20:28-30, 2 Timothy 2:2.

II. The Qualifications of Eldership (vv. 2-5)

1 Timothy 3:2-5 (ESV): *2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?*

"Why is Christ-like character the key for eldership in God's household?"

Answer: Elders are Spirit-filed, solid models of Christ's disciples for the church. See Ephesians 5:23, 1 Peter 5:4.

III. The Hazards of Eldership (vv. 2-5)

1 Timothy 3:6-7 (ESV): *6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.*

"Why is eldership a hazardous but necessary role for God's household?"

Answer: Elders face "spiritual battle" in shepherding the church towards maturity. See Genesis 32.

→ **Life Application:** Take steps of growing up by discipling others in your life.