OVERSEER QUALIFICATIONS - PART 2

I Timothy 3:4&5 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?)

Family Management

I Timothy 3:4 (NASB) He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity.

Titus 1:6&7a An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and/or disobedient. Since an overseer manages God’s household,

An overseer’s children must be believers.

They must be obedient, under control.

They must be kept under control in a manner worthy of full respect, (with all

dignity). Children can be controlled by yelling, or be terrified of a parent with a

violent temper. Neither of those options is acceptable.

The children must not be open to the charge of being wild and/or disobedient.

If a man cannot manage his own children, how can he take care of God’s church?

“Take care of” translates a Greek word used only here and in Luke 10:34&35.

Luke 10:33-35 “But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and

when he saw him, he felt compassion, and came to him and bandaged up his

wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and put him on his own beast, and

brought him to an inn and took care of him. On the next day he took out two

denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, ‘Take care of him, and whatever

more you spend, when I return I will repay you.’ “

Managing a church is much more like parenting than running a business. Most of

us are broken in some way, and an overseer must know how to help hurting

people.

More Qualifications from I Timothy

I Timothy 3:6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and

fall under the same judgment as the devil.

Ezekiel 28:17a “Your heart became proud on account of your beauty; and you

corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor.

Daniel 5:20 (NASB) “But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so

proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was deposed from his royal throne, and

his glory was taken away from him.”

I Timothy 3:7 He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will

not fall into disgrace and the devil’s trap.

Judas fooled the other eleven Apostles, William Branham fooled many well known

and respected Christian leaders, Jim Jones and David Koresh fooled their

followers. Sometimes the world will see a Christian’s character flaws long before

those in the church will. That is one of the reasons we put a person’s name

before the entire church for two weeks prior to putting an Elder in office.

More Qualifications from Titus

Titus 1:7 Since an overseer manages God’s household, he must be blameless – not

overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not

pursuing dishonest gain.

“Overbearing,” which according to Vine’s means, “one who, dominated by self-

interest, and inconsiderate of others, arrogantly asserts his own will…one so far

overvaluing any determination at which he himself has once arrived that he will

not be removed from it.” Other common translations are self-willed, arrogant and

stubborn.

“Quick-tempered” translates a Greek word derived from the word meaning angry.

“Quick-tempered” is by far the most common translation, but the root meaning of

the word suggests one who is angry inside and whose anger comes to the surface

with almost any provocation.

Titus 1:8 Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-

controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.

“One who loves what is good” translates a Greek word made by combining the

words for love and good. It is used only here in the New Testament. The negative

form of the word is found in 2 Timothy 3:1-5, where it is used to describe evil

people in the last days. Enjoying watching and listening to evil being portrayed is

spiritually unhealthy.

 “Without love” in 2 Timothy 3:3 specifically refers to parents not loving children

and children not loving parents. The King James Version translates it “without

 natural affection.” Evil people love all the wrong things.

2 Timothy 3:2-4 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful,

proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love,

unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,

treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God -

“Upright” means someone who does what is right without partiality.

“Holy” combines the ideas of doing what is right with the qualities of being

gracious and showing mercy.

“Disciplined” is very similar in meaning to the word translated “self-controlled.” It

basically means someone who is strong enough to do what is right rather than

what their desires or emotions want them to do.

I Timothy 3:10(NASB) These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as

deacons if they are beyond reproach.

A person should not be made an Elder or a Deacon without first proving faithful in

another place of service.

The Composite List from Timothy and Titus

He should be faithful to his wife and have his children under control.

He should not get intoxicated or like to sit around drinking.

He should be disciplined, orderly and self-controlled.

He should be willing to put himself out for strangers.

He should be a good teacher who is able to correct false teaching.

He should not be someone who likes to fight, but is gentle.

He should not be quarrelsome (contentious, argumentative) or quick-tempered.

He should not love money or use shameful ways to obtain it.

He should not be a recent convert.

He should have a good reputation with those outside the church.

He should not be overbearing.

He must love what is good.

He must do what is right without partiality but be gracious and merciful.

He should first be tested.