



V. 4 (2 Timothy 2:2)

God designed His church around relational discipleship and **leadership**.

Titus - Galatians 2:3-5, 2 Corinthians

Titus serves as an example of a man whose **character** made him consistently available to do God's work.

Titus' Task

straighten out what was left unfinished – most likely had to do with the rest of what Paul writes in the letter but was **not** restricted to appointing elders and most likely did entail dealing with the **false** teachers

appoint elders in every town - 'Appoint' means to **ordain**, to set in place, to put in office and the office Titus is filling is that of **elders**.

The three terms used for **LEADERSHIP** in the local church – elder, overseer, and pastor – are interchangeable.

- Elder speaks to the **MATURITY** of the man.
- Overseer speaks to his function of **LEADERSHIP**.
- Pastor speaks to his function of **FEEDING** the sheep as a shepherd.

1 Tim 5:17 – There are elders who direct the affairs of the church and elders who **also** preach and teach.

The basic biblical pattern for the NT church was that leadership was:

- To come from **within** the church (to be local in nature)
- To meet certain **standards** of behavior (to be qualified)
- To be **plural** in composition (not to be dominated by one personality)

Acts 20:28 - The **Holy Spirit** is the one who calls, ordains, gifts, and sets apart those to lead His church.

The increased visibility of the church leaders both in and outside the church requires **personal conduct** that clearly reflects the saving gospel of God's grace and the ongoing process of sanctification.

The elder is selected as a result of his already exemplifying such a life. The qualifications are to be met **before** he becomes an elder.

An elder must be blameless

This first qualification is general but is the sort of overarching statement to which **all the others** are going to somehow relate.

'Blameless' means to be without fault, **unchargeable** – the idea of not being **called** into court or to account for what you've done

This is not someone who is **sinless**, but someone to whom no one can point to any public or gross sins in his life. He must have a good **reputation**.

The elder is a man whose life is a **model** for spiritual conduct because that's what shepherding is – the congregation doesn't just listen, they **follow**.
Philippians 3:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:9; Hebrews 13:7; 1 Peter 5:1-3

Understand...

The only way anyone is qualified (to be an elder) is by the **grace** of God.

God is the **authority** in His church – even in terms of the selection of and service of elders.

Respond...

Going back to verse 4, who are you really **investing** in? Who are you discipling spiritual by pouring your life into them as often as you can?

As the congregation you must not see yourself, when it comes to membership in God's church, as a **recipient** only nor hide behind the idea of "that's the pastor's job."

Remember...

Whether or not you are or become qualified to be an elder, **you** are responsible for choosing and supporting those who are, for submitting and rejoicing in God's authority through obedience in His church, and you are responsible for most of what God calls His **Church** to do and be.