



Leadership is by **example** and elders are to set a pattern to be followed in how they **live** as much as in what they say.

The husband of but one wife

In the Bible, marriage is presented as not only a social institution, but also as a **model** of the relationship between Christ and His Bride, the Church.

The phrase literally means ‘a **one-woman** man’ because God sets up the models of Christian virtue in His church, the elders, as someone who is known both in and out of the church as a man who has a wife, is **devoted** to her, and that is his reputation and nothing more.

The issue here is not *primarily* marital status, but **moral** character.

A man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient

As important as a father’s example and training are, ultimately salvation is a supernatural act of **God**. And while God uses godly parents in this process, no actions on the part of the most godly father can **guarantee** the salvation of his children.

1 Timothy 3:4-5

The word in Titus for ‘believe’ can mean and is often used in Scripture to mean both ‘believing’ and ‘**faithful**.’

The **parallel** between Titus 1:6 and 1 Timothy 3:4-5 is crucial for understanding.

What is at stake is the children’s **behavior**, not their eternal state.

What is expected is neither conversion nor perfection, but the kind of parental **leadership** that produces faithful children.

The elder, overseer, pastor must be a man who has demonstrated his spiritual leadership ability and integrity by leading his **family** to **respect** the truth he holds most precious – which is the same thing he must do in the church.

This results when a father raises his kids in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, which manifests itself in:

- A firmness that makes it advisable for children to **obey**
- A wisdom that makes it **natural** for them to obey
- A **love** that makes it a pleasure for them to obey.

A man is ordained as an elder because the church recognizes that God by His grace has chosen him for leadership and it is clear first of all in his **home**.

What is **required** of an elder is no different than what is **expected** of all who believe.

Husbands and wives – your **marriage** is meant to be a picture of Jesus and the Church. How’s that going?

Parents – your home in many ways is meant to reflect the **Lordship** of Jesus in your life. How’s that going?

Young men – if you ever want to be rightly used by God in a leadership role in His church, know that you must work now to **love** your wife and **raise** your kids, both according to God’s truth.