



There is more to life in Christ than **knowledge**, but there is no growth without it. How can you know who to choose as elders, pastors if you don't know and understand what to **look** for?

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

"*Entrusted*" literally means "a **steward**."

The church is God's **household**. The overseer's job is to manage it for Him. 1 Timothy 3:5; Acts 20:28; Hebrews 13:17

Verse 7 repeats the overarching qualification of verse 5 (blameless) and everything else basically **defines** and connects to it.

"*not overbearing*" – **self-willed**; so consumed with your own authority that you disregard others.

Matthew 20:25-27

The elders should be sensitive to use his authority in a way that truly promotes **God's** work and not any personal agenda.

"*not quick tempered*" – referring to a smoldering kind of anger that **resides** under the surface. James 1:20

The elder "is a man who can allow people around him to fail until they learn to succeed because he doesn't tie his **ego** up in everything they do."

"*not given to drunkenness*" – not being **alongside** wine – a person who has some kind of addiction or need to indulge himself in this to some degree of **incapacitation**. Leviticus 10:9; Proverbs 31:3-5

"*not violent*" – the idea of someone who **hits** you; the spirit is that of just **lashing** out

An elder is to **resolve** conflict peacefully, biblically in a godly gentle and humble manner even when communicated in strength.

"*not pursuing dishonest gain*" – someone who is after personal gain **shamefully** – he doesn't care how he amasses material things.

1 Timothy 6:9-11

"*hospitable*" – to **love strangers** – the idea of opening your life and resources to people you don't know.

"*one who loves what is good*" – Philippians 4:8 – devoted to what is **right**, to praiseworthy people, to praiseworthy **actions**, he responds to what is excellent.

"*self-controlled*" – sensible, **prudent** – his mind is not caught up in the trivial or frivolous, instead he has a disciplined **wisdom**

"*upright*" – he is known as a man whom God approves because he lives according to **divine standards**

"*holy*" – pure, unpoluted, free from any **stain** of sin (back to the idea of being blameless or above reproach)

"*disciplined*" – self-controlled, **restrained**.

If a man cannot control his life in righteousness and holiness when he is all **alone** and by himself he doesn't qualify to be an elder.

The standards of character for an elder are high because that's how God wants **you** to live. It isn't that elders are to be different than everybody else, they just have to actually be what everybody else is **supposed** to be.

1) You need to know what God **expects** in order to follow His plan as His church when you choose your leaders.

2) What you **expect** of your leaders, are you seeking to follow yourself?

3) Men – if Fairway were nominating elders today, would you be **qualified**?

If Fairway does in the future, what will you do **now** to be qualified then?