



Everyone who professes to know Christ holds to a theology. The question is whether they hold to a **biblically** sound theology.

The primary function of elders is to know Scripture well enough that they are able to keep the church in the **truth** in the face of Satan's repeated attempts to introduce error.

Verse 9 has the single qualification that relates to a **skill** or function: these men are to be teachers and preachers.

The pastor's leadership in the church is the direct **application** of the truth of God's Word through the will of the Spirit which has become the fabric of his **thinking**.

He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught

Paul is saying elders are to be men who **cling** to the reliable, trustworthy, dependable truth of God which will be in perfect agreement with what has been taught by the **Apostles**.

The man who qualifies to be an elder today is personally and practically devoted to the Word of God: the **Scripture**.
2 Timothy 2:23-26

Every elder must be grounded in, mature in understanding, and knowledgeable enough in God's Word to **instruct** a younger believer and to **correct** doctrinal error with confidence when he encounters it.

To encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it

The word for 'doctrine' is literally '**teaching**' so it includes both the doctrinal as well as the more practical parts of Scripture.

There is no **practical** without the doctrinal.
Without **doctrine**, you are building your Christian life with no foundation.

"encourage" – parakaleo – **call alongside**

The heart of an elder who preaches or teaches is to come alongside others in life with God's truth and educate, **persuade**, and entrust them so they are able to understand, to **apply**, and even to teach others.

"Refute" means literally to **convince** them of their error. It isn't to humiliate them or to speak evil of them. It is to effectively show them their error and Scripture is the **source** through which that is done.

The implication is that the false teaching is coming from **within** the church; which means within this qualification is a requirement for an elder to be courageous enough to confront so-called Christian **brothers**.

2 Timothy 4:2

The fount of authority is the **Word**. And out of this framework come elders who explain that Word well and apply it well, so that believers say, "Yes, this is the **mind** of God."

Titus 1:6-8

1) The great qualification for this office of elder, pastor, overseer is a **holy life**.

If you put **godly** men together in leadership, a church is likely to get wisdom and sound judgment and proper direction from them.

2) What God's Word **requires** of elders is no different than what God's Word expects to be found in an increasing degree in **every** Christian.

If we **all** aspire to be what elders must be, we will not only be happier and more useful to Christ ourselves, but will together produce a **church** that God can and will greatly favor.