

# **The Household of God - Qualifications for Overseers**

**1 Timothy 3:1-7**

# Outline

1. Qualifications
2. Terminology
3. Practice at BFA
4. Application

**Prayer...**

# Job Advertisements

- diploma or degree, or
- seal/certification in a trade
- read and apply building codes, strange legislation, policies, etc.
- your own tools
- vehicle and valid drivers licence

# Behavioural Skills

- a team player
- able to develop and maintain good working relationships
- able to juggle priorities
- able to get the important stuff done

Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.

(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

1 Ti 3:1-7 (NIV)

# Special People

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Acts 20:28 (NIV)



# Qualifications



- Called, love God, passion
- Willing to work through differences

## Over-riding qualification

- Above reproach

# Husband...

- One wife
- Single men are eligible
- Second marriages
  
- Current situation
  - loving, faithful

# Must be...

- ✓ temperate
- ✓ self-controlled
- ✓ respectable
- ✓ hospitable
- ✓ able to teach
- ✓ gentle

# also...

- ✓ manage own family well
- ✓ children obey him
- ✓ has a good reputation.

# Must not be...

- given to drunkenness
- violent
- quarrelsome
- a lover of money
- a new convert

# Terminology

It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office <episkope> of overseer <episkope>, it is a fine work he desires to do. An overseer <episkopos>, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach...

1Ti3:1-2 (NASV)

# Terminology

1 ¶ Therefore, I exhort the elders <presbuteros> among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,

1Pe 5:1 (NASV)

# Terminology

...shepherd <poimaino> the flock of God  
among you... (verb) 1 Pe 5:2 (NASV)

...shepherd <poimaino> the flock of God  
among you ...(verb) Acts 20:28 (NASV)

And He gave some as apostles, and some  
as prophets, and some as evangelists, and  
some as pastors <poimen> and teachers

Eph 4:11 (NASV)

Therefore, I exhort the elders  
<presbuteros> among you, as your fellow  
elder and witness of the sufferings of  
Christ, and a partaker also of the glory  
that is to be revealed, shepherd  
<poimaino> the flock of God among you,  
exercising oversight <episkopeo> not  
under compulsion, but voluntarily,  
according to the will of God; and not for  
sordid gain, but with eagerness;

1Pe 5:1-2 (NASV)



Ac 20:17 17 ¶ From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders <presbuteros> of the church. (NASV)

Ac 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers <episkopos>, to shepherd <poimaino> the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (NASV)

Acts 20:17, 28 (NASV)

# Summarizing Qualifications

character

competence (ability to teach)

community-minded (ability to work together)

courageous (to address false doctrine and interpersonal disputes)

called (to the work)

# Bible Fellowship Assembly:

Follow New Testament model

Plurality of elders (qualified men)

Teaching the gathered assembly  
(qualified men)

# Elder Roles:

- Feed congregation, ensure ongoing public exposition of God's word
- Do work of a shepherd – to lead by example
- Support the weak, and
- reprove, rebuke, and exhort as necessary
- ministry leaders responsible to the elders group

# Application

elders - keep fire burning hot, ensure lives are consistent with God's calling

others - pray, share praise and prayer items with us (communication goes two ways)

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Hebrews 13:7 (NIV)

Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow-prisoners, and those who are ill-treated as if you yourselves were suffering. Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have...

Hebrews 13:1-5a (NIV)

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. 9 Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace...

Hebrews 13:8-9a (NIV)

Develop character

Saved by grace

Gratitude, love, obedience