

## Choose the Right Elder 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Main Idea: Paul commends the office of elder and lists the qualifications for an elder.

<sup>5</sup> For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, <sup>6</sup> *namely*, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. <sup>7</sup> For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,  
Titus 1:5-7 (NASB)

I. Being an elder is a fine work (3:1)

II. Qualifications for an elder (3:2-7)

<sup>9</sup> A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, *having been* the wife of one man,  
1 Timothy 5:9 (NASB)

5 suggestions for a “one woman man”

- He must be single and “married” to the church (Roman Catholic view)

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, I exhort the elders 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, 1 Peter 5:1 (NASB)

- He can't be polygamous

<sup>2</sup> But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband.  
1 Corinthians 7:2 (NASB)

- He can't remarry if his first wife dies
- He is completely faithful and loyal to his wife
- He cannot be divorced and remarried

<sup>6</sup> and they may come to their senses *and escape* from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will. 2 Timothy 2:26 (NASB)