

A Study of The Selection Process  
Of Elders and Deacons

Elder Qualifications

- 1Ti 3:1 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.
- 1Ti 3:2 Therefore an overseer **must be** above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,
- 1Ti 3:3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.
- 1Ti 3:4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive,
- 1Ti 3:5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?
- 1Ti 3:6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil.
- 1Ti 3:7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.
- Tit 1:5 This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you--
- Tit 1:6 if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination.
- Tit 1:7 For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain,
- Tit 1:8 but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.
- Tit 1:9 He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

1. Desire
2. Must be
3. Above reproach
4. Not arrogant or quick tempered
5. Husband of one wife
6. Sober-minded
7. Respectable
8. Hospitable
9. Able to teach
10. Not a drunkard
11. Not violent
12. Not a lover of money or greedy of gain
13. Must manage his own household well / with all dignity keeping his children submissive/  
his children are believers, not open to charge of debauchery or insubordination
14. Not a recent convert
15. Well thought of by outsiders
16. Lover of good
17. Upright/ holy/ disciplined
18. Must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught

1. **Desire**- Gk.3713- *reach* out after (*long* for).
2. **Must**- Gk.1163- Third person singular active present of **G1210**; also **δεόν deon** which is neuter active participle of the same; both used impersonally; *it is (was, etc.) necessary* (as **binding**): - behaved, be meet, must (needs), (be) need (-ful), ought, should. **Be**- Gk.1511- **Present infinitive** from **G1510**; *to exist*: - am, are, come, is, X just after, X please well, there is, to be, was. Thus, he is to be at present and, as infinitive suggests, as long as he meets all qualifications, in such a state as is further commanded.
3. **Above reproach**- Gk.423. Thayer “*not apprehended, that cannot be laid hold of; hence cannot be reprehended, not open to censure, irreproachable*”.
4. **Not arrogant** (Gk.829- *self pleasing*) or **quick tempered** (Gk.3711- *irascible [irritable, grumpy]: -soon angry*)
5. **Husband of one** (Gk.3391- *one or first*) **wife**. At the time of the writing, polygamy was common but was categorically forbidden of Christians according to Jesus’ statement in Mat 19 concerning marriage, divorce and re-marriage. The koine Greek word for ‘one’ implies that the elder, who had multiple wives prior to conversion, give up all those wives and that he remain married to his ‘first’ (*not to be misunderstood as Gk.4413- foremost; which would denote that he could only be married once*) wife. It does not, however, mean that he could not marry after his first wife died, making him a widower. Any qualified elder, even one who was divorced because of a wife having committed “sexual immorality” (*adultery- Mat 5:32*), who himself is scripturally qualified to marry, who marries another woman who is also ‘scripturally’ eligible, thus fits the “husband of one wife” restriction.
6. **Sober minded**- Gk.4998- *safe (sound) in mind*, that is, *self-controlled (moderate as to opinion or passion*. Thayer- “*curbing one’s desires and impulses, self-controlled, temperate*”.
7. **Respectable**- Gk.2887- *orderly*: -of good behavior, modest.
8. **Hospitable**- Gk.5382- *fond of guests*: -given to (lover of, use) hospitality.
9. **Able to teach**- Gk.1317- *instructive*. Thayer- “*apt and skillful in teaching*”.
10. **Not**- (Gk.3361- *negation*) a **drunkard**- Gk.3943- *staying near wine*. Interlinear- “not given to wine”. An elder is to be “given to hospitality” but “not given to wine”. We must never forget that our bodies belong to the Lord as temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19-20) and are to be respected as such. If that is to be understood and practiced by the common Christian, why should the elder be negated from this? (See notes at under [www.truthdiscovered.net](http://www.truthdiscovered.net) Sermon Notes A-F/ “Alcohol and The Bible”)
11. **Not**- (Gk.3361) **violent**- Gk.4131- a *smiter*, that is, *pugnacious (quarrelsome)*.
12. **Not**- (Gk.3361) a **lover of money or greedy of gain**- Gk.146- (*gain*); *sordid*.
13. **Must manage** (Gk.4291- *to stand before, that is, [in rank] to preside*) **his own household** (Gk.3624- Thayer- “*the inmates of a house, all the persons forming one family, a household*”) **well/ with all dignity** (Gk.4587- *venerableness, that is, probity [honesty, integrity]*) **keeping his children** (Gk.5043- Thayer- “*offspring; children; child [thus a plurality of children is not necessary. See also Lk 14:26. In this passage, would a plurality be necessary to prove this man’s faithfulness to Christ?] (Question: How long are offspring still offspring? Don’t they continue as such when they ‘leave the nest’?)* **submissive** (Gk.5292- *subordination*)/ **his children** (Gk.5043) **are believers** (Gk.4103- Thayer- “*one who has become convinced that Jesus is the Messiah and author of salvation, [a believer]: with addition... of persons in whom faith or trust is reposed*”- Rom 1:30), **not open to charge** (Gk.2724- *a complaint, that is, criminal charge: -accusation*) **of debauchery** (Gk.810- *unsavedness*) (This must include those who have had their fellowship withdrawn from.) **or insubordination** (Gk.506-

- unsubdued, that is, insubordinate [in fact or temper]: -disobedient, that is not put under, unruly)*
14. **Not-** (Gk.3361) **a recent convert-** Gk.3504- *newly planted, that is, (figuratively) a young convert.*
15. **Well** (Gk.2570- *good [literally or morally], that is, valuable or virtuous [for appearance or use])* **thought of** (Gk.3141- *evidence given*) **by outsiders-** Gk.1855- Thayer- “those who do not belong to the Christian church”.
16. **Lover of good-** Gk.5358- *fond of good, that is, a promoter of virtue.*
17. **Upright-** Gk.1342- Thayer- “*rendering to each his due; and that in a judicial sense, passing just judgment on others, whether expressed in words or by shown by the manner of dealing with them*”. **Holy-** Gk.3741- Thayer- “*undefiled by sin, free from wickedness, religiously observing every moral obligation, pure, holy, pious*”.
- Disciplined-** Gk.1468- *strong in a thing (masterful), that is, self-controlled (in appetite, etc.): -temperate.*
18. **Must hold firm to** (Gk.472- *to hold oneself opposite to, that is, [by implication] adhere to; by extension to care for*) **the trustworthy** (Gk.4103) **word** (Gk.3056) **as taught** (Gk.1322- *instruction [the act or the matter]: -doctrine*) This concerns being “devoted... to the apostles’ teaching” (Act 2:42) “and to the word of [God’s] grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among those who are sanctified” (Act 20:32) and “[receiving] with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls” (Jas 1:21).

### Deacon Qualifications

- 1Ti 3:8 Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain.
- 1Ti 3:9 They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.
- 1Ti 3:10 And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless.
- 1Ti 3:11 Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things.
- 1Ti 3:12 Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.
- 1Ti 3:13 For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

1. Likewise
2. Must be dignified
3. Not double-tongued
4. Not addicted to much wine
5. Not greedy of dishonest gain
6. Must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience
  7. Be tested first
  8. Prove themselves blameless
  9. Wives likewise must be dignified
    10. Not slanderers
    11. Sober minded
    12. Faithful in all things
    13. Husbands of one wife

## 14. Managing their children and their own households well

1. **Likewise**- Gk.5615- *as thus*, that is, *in the same way*. Referring back to the qualifications of the elders but here with some amendments. Yes he is to desire the position and must not be forced into it but nothing is said about his being able to teach either. And just because nothing is stated respecting the wife of the elder, it can be assumed that their wives meet the same qualifications (*likewise*) as those of the deacons’.
2. **Must** (Gk.1163- *it is [was, etc.] necessary [as binding]*) **be dignified**- Gk.4586- *venerable*, that is, *honorable*: -grave, honest.
3. **Not**- (Gk.3361) **double-tongued**- Gk.1351- *equivocal*, that is, telling a different story.
4. **Not**- (Gk.3361) **addicted**- Gk.4337- (figuratively) to *hold* the mind (intellect) *towards*, that is, *pay attention to, be cautious about, apply oneself to, adhere to*. **Much**- Gk.4183- *much (in any respect)*. **Wine**- Gk.3631- A primary word (or perhaps of Hebrew origin [Heb.3196- to effervesce; wine (as fermented)]) (See notes above on bullet point 9.)
5. **Not greedy of dishonest gain**- (See notes on bullet point 11 above.)
6. **Must**- (Gk.1163) **hold** (Gk.2192) **the mystery** (Gk.3466- a secret or “mystery” [through the idea of silence imposed by initiation into religious rites]) **of the faith** (Gk.4102- *persuasion, that is, credence; moral conviction, especially reliance upon Christ for salvation*) **with a clear** (Gk.2513- *clean. Thayer-* “free from every admixture of what is false, sincere”) **conscience** (Gk.4893- *co-perception, that is, moral consciousness. From Gk.4894- to see completely; respectively meaning to understand or become aware, and to be conscious or [clandestinely] informed of*)
7. **Be tested** (Gk.1381- *to test; by implication to approve*) **first** (Gk.4412- *firstly [in time, place, order, or importance]*)
8. **Prove themselves blameless** (Gk.410- *unaccused, that is, [by implication] irreproachable*) – Interlinear- “unimpeachable being”.
9. **Wives likewise** (Gk.5615) **must** (Gk.1163) **be dignified**- Gk.4586- *venerable*, that is, *honorable*: -grave, honest.
10. **Not**- (Gk.3361) **slanderers**- Gk.1228- a *traducer*: -false accuser.
11. **Sober minded**- Gk.3524- *sober*, that is, (figuratively) *circumspect [cautious]*: -vigilant.
12. **Faithful** (Gk.4103- *objectively trustworthy; subjectively trustful*) **in all things** (Gk.3956- *all, any, every, the whole: -whatsoever*).
13. **Husbands of one wife**- (referring back to an elder’s qualifications; see bullet point 5 under elder qualifications)
14. **Managing their children and their own households well**- (See bullet point 13 under elder qualifications)

(Above passages are in the English Standard Version unless otherwise stated.)

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 Updated July 19, 2019  
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