



Identifying Elders

Titus 1:5-9

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What traits and ministries should a local church look for to identify men that God has made to be elders? We'll see how the Bible defines those traits and how it describes the elder's primary ministry in today's passage.

Background

Terminology – The New Testament uses three terms to describe the same position of local church leadership.

1. Elder
2. Overseer (Bishop)
3. Pastor (Shepherd)

The Over-Arching Qualification for an Elder: Above Reproach (1:6)

The Elder's Household:

- He is a one-woman man.
- He has children who are faithful.

Five qualities an elder must not be characterized by:

Six qualities an elder must be characterized by:

The Distinctive Mark of Ministry in Identifying Elders:

He is bound to the Word of God, for the purpose of...

- Teaching sound doctrine
- Exposing and refuting false teaching

Questions to Consider

1. What are some of the world's expectations when it comes to identifying leaders?
2. What are the words the New Testament uses to describe a local church leader, and what is the significance of each of those words?
3. There are practical issues when it comes to a prospective elder's family (singleness, divorce, an unbelieving wife, the behavior of his children, unbelieving children). What are some biblical principles from Titus 1:6 and 1 Timothy 3:2, 4-5 that we can apply to examine his leadership of his family?
4. Read through the list of positive and negative character traits in Titus 1:7-8. In which area do you most need grace and help to grow?
5. What must be the distinguishing mark of ministry for an elder or prospective elder, and why?
6. Understanding that we cannot compromise on the biblical qualifications, what could be some preference areas in our desire for elders that we can be praying about as a church?