

Qualifications of Elders/Overseers and Deacons: A Comparison Chart

Elder/Overseer - a noble task (1 Tim. 3:1)

Mature Faith

Overall Character

above reproach: (1 Tim. 3:2; cf. 1 Tim. 5:7; 6:14);
(Titus 1:6; 1:7; cf. 1 Tim. 3:10)

Spiritual Virtues

sober-minded: (1 Tim. 3:2; cf. Titus 2:2)
self-controlled: (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8; 2:2; 2:5)
respectable: (1 Tim. 3:2)
hospitable: (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8; cf. 1 Peter 4:9)
gentle: (1 Tim. 3:3; cf. James 3:17; 1 Peter 2:18)
a lover of good: (Titus 1:8)
upright: (Titus 1:8; cf. Phil. 4:8)
holy: (Titus 1:8; cf. 1 Tim. 2:8)
disciplined: (Titus 1:8)

Knowledge of the Faith

able to teach/able to give instruction in sound
doctrine (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:9)
able to rebuke those who contradict [sound
doctrine] (Titus 1:9)

Depth of Spiritual Experience

not a recent convert, or he may become puffed
up with conceit (1 Tim. 3:6)

Healthy Family Relations

Undivided Intimacy

the husband of one wife (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6)

Household Management

must manage his own household well, with all
dignity keeping his children submissive
(1 Tim. 3:4-5)

his children are believers and not open to the
charge of debauchery or insubordination
(Titus 1:6)

Freedom from Vices

Sinful Speech

not quarrelsome: (1 Tim. 3:3; cf. Titus 3:2)

Anger & Violence

not violent: (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
not quick-tempered: (Titus 1:7)

Greed

not greedy for gain: (Titus 1:7)
not a lover of money: (1 Tim. 3:3; cf. Heb. 13:5)

Misuse of Alcohol

not a drunkard: (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)

Pride

not arrogant: (Titus 1:7)

Favorable Public Testimony

well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall
into disgrace (1 Tim. 3:7)

Deacon - good standing & great confidence

(1 Tim. 3:13)

Mature Faith

Overall Character

dignified (1 Tim. 3:8; cf. Titus 2:2)
blameless (1 Tim. 3:10)

Knowledge of the Faith

must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear
conscience (1 Tim. 3:9)

Depth of Spiritual Experience

let them be tested first; then let them serve if
they prove themselves blameless (1 Tim. 3:10)

Healthy Family Relations

Undivided Intimacy

the husband of one wife (1 Tim. 3:12)

Household Management

managing their children and their own
households well (1 Tim. 3:12)

A Spiritually Minded Wife

dignified: (1 Tim. 3:11; cf. Titus 2:2)
not slanderers: (1 Tim. 3:11; cf. 2 Tim. 3:3; 2:3)
sober-minded: (1 Tim. 3:11; cf. Titus 2:2)
faithful in all things (1 Tim. 3:11)

Freedom from Vices

Sinful Speech

not double-tongued: (1 Tim. 3:8)

Greed

not greedy for dishonest gain: (1 Tim. 3:8)

Misuse of Alcohol

not addicted to much wine: (1 Tim. 3:8)