

Qualities of the Biblical Elder

1. Blameless / Above Reproach

- Elders should live in a way that is morally upright, with no obvious faults that would disqualify them from leading (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6). This doesn't mean perfection, but that their character is such that accusations against them don't hold.

2. Faithful to His Spouse

- Elders must be “the husband of one wife,” meaning they should be devoted to their spouse, demonstrating faithfulness and moral purity in their marriage (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:5).

3. Temperate / Sober-Minded

- An elder should be self-controlled and balanced in judgment, not prone to extremes in thinking or behavior (1 Timothy 3:2).

4. Self-Controlled

- Elders are to show discipline in their personal lives, controlling their desires and impulses, and leading a life of moderation (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8).

5. Hospitable

- Elders should be willing to welcome others, showing generosity, kindness, and openness, particularly to strangers (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8).

6. Able to Teach

- Teaching is an essential role of elders. They must be knowledgeable in Scripture and able to instruct others in sound doctrine (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9).

7. Not Given to Drunkenness

- Elders must not be addicted to alcohol or controlled by any substance that would hinder their judgment or self-control (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7).

8. Not Violent, But Gentle

- Elders should not be quarrelsome, aggressive, or harsh, but should be gentle, patient, and peaceable, showing a spirit of meekness (1 Timothy 3:3).

9. Not Quarrelsome

- They should avoid unnecessary disputes and conflict, promoting unity and peace within the church (1 Timothy 3:3).

10. Not a Lover of Money

- Elders should not be greedy or driven by the pursuit of wealth. Their motivation must come from a love for God and His people, not financial gain (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7).

11. Manages His Household Well

- An elder should have a well-ordered family life. If they cannot lead their own household well, they are unlikely to manage the affairs of the church effectively (1 Timothy 3:4–5; Titus 1:6).

12. Not a Recent Convert

- Elders should have spiritual maturity and experience in the faith. A new believer might lack the stability and humility needed for the position (1 Timothy 3:6).

13. Good Reputation with Outsiders

- Elders must be respected not only within the church but also by those outside of the Christian community, avoiding behaviors that would bring disrepute to the faith (1 Timothy 3:7).

14. Upright and Holy

- Elders are to live holy lives that reflect God's righteousness, demonstrating ethical integrity, and moral uprightness (Titus 1:8).

15. Holding Firm to Sound Doctrine

- Elders must be committed to the teachings of Scripture and able to correct those who stray from the truth, defending the faith against false doctrines (Titus 1:9).

Qualities of Elders in the Pastoral Epistles

1 Tim 3:1-7	Titus 1:5-9
Above reproach (3:2)	Blameless (1:6-7)
the husband of one wife (3:2)	the husband of one wife (1:5)
Temperate (3:2)	Not quick-tempered (1:7)
Self-controlled (3:2)	Self-controlled (1:8)
Respectable (3:2)	
Hospitable (3:2)	Hospitable (1:8)
An apt teacher (3:2)	He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it (1:9); There are many rebellious people (1:10-11)
No drunkard (3:3)	No drunkard (1:7)
Not violent but gentle (3:3)	Not violent (1:7)
Not quarrelsome (3:3)	
No lover of money (3:3)	Not greedy for gain (1:7)
He must manage his own household well, keeping his children submissive and respectful in every way; for if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how can he care for God's church? (3:4-5)	His children are believers and not open to the charge of being profligate or insubordinate (1:6)
He must not be a recent convert, or he may be puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil (3:6)	
He must be well thought of by outsiders, or he may fall into reproach and the snare of the devil (3:7)	
	Not arrogant (1:7)
	A lover of goodness (1:8)
	Upright and holy (1:8)

Hillcrest Website Links:

What We Believe – Shaped by Scripture: <http://hillcrestonline.com/aboutus/beliefs/shaped-by-scripture/>

Elder Selection Materials: <https://hillcrestonline.com/elderselection/>

Policy Manual Link on Hillcrest Connect (sign in required): <https://hillcrest.ccbchurch.com/index.php>