

### “God’s Steward”

**Intro:** As we come to our third teaching of Titus we find the list of pastoral qualifications. It is important that we understand these well, making sure that the pastors under whose teaching and example we sit are biblically qualified. This cannot be overstated for the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, the spiritual well-being of the church, and the measure of our \_\_\_\_\_ is dependent upon our pastors being men whom God truly called and who prove His calling as they meet these qualifications. This issue is of extreme importance as it concerns the glory \_\_\_\_\_ in His church.

**A.** As we study the list of qualifications in Titus 1:6-9 we learn that to be biblically qualified a pastor must be \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ as he is deserving of a good reputation (vs. 6); dead to selfish desires (vs. 7), and alive to God in deed (v. 8) and doctrine (v. 9).

**I.** A biblically qualified pastor must be Christ-like; a true and \_\_\_\_\_ Christian in life, practice and ministry.

**A.** A God-ordained elder is \_\_\_\_\_ of a good reputation.

1. A true God-called pastor will be a man who is above reproach / \_\_\_\_\_ . There will be no evil, on-going sin, or shameful Christ-dishonoring thing in his life that he can be justly called to account for.
2. The man who is ordained and qualified of God to pastor is \_\_\_\_\_ pure in thought, word and life. Whether married or not he is faithful to God and will be \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ’s church as is demonstrated in his moral faithfulness.
3. The man who is called of God to be an elder will have \_\_\_\_\_ who believe in Christ, whose lives are mark by the obedience \_\_\_\_\_ .

**B.** The ordained of God are \_\_\_\_\_ ish desires, being God’s steward.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the household of God and the pastor is \_\_\_\_\_ steward. The *overseer* who is *above reproach* knows he is not the owner of the church but the Owner’s steward to whom he is devoted and will give an account. Being Christ-like the pastor does not seek his own!
2. He is \_\_\_\_\_ -willed. As the term translated self-willed denotes pastors do not rule in arrogant self-interest. He does not serve to be served. Their motto is: “Not my will \_\_\_\_\_ be done!”
3. He is \_\_\_\_\_ quick-tempered. He is not characterized by outbursts of anger, nor known to have a \_\_\_\_\_ .

4. He is \_\_\_\_\_ to wine. He is not a drunkard nor given to any mind altering substance. Rather he is filled and \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.

5. He is \_\_\_\_\_ pugnacious. That is, he is not a fist-fighter, given to either verbal or physical \_\_\_\_\_!

6. He must \_\_\_\_\_ be fond of \_\_\_\_\_ gain.

C. The qualified elder is alive to \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Those whom God ordained to be a pastor-elder of Christ's church \_\_\_\_\_ the love of Christ both spiritually and materially to friend and stranger alike; delightfully love what is good and virtuous before God; are of a sound righteous mind; are just, fair and equitable; \_\_\_\_\_ to the will of Christ for His church; and self-controlled by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

D. The qualified elder is \_\_\_\_\_ to God in \_\_\_\_\_.

1. The biblically qualified pastor is a tenaciously dedicated Biblicist, who by faith in Christ clings to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God with all that is in him. He accurately holds to the true Word of God so he is equipped to faithfully \_\_\_\_\_ and defend the sound doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Closing:** The biblically qualified pastor is Christ-like as he is deserving of a good reputation, dead to selfish desires, and alive to God in deed and doctrine. And where the pastor is not biblically \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible will not be preached and the church will not be Christ-centered, and a church that is not Christ-centered is not a true Christian church. Pastors are God's \_\_\_\_\_.

Now, what about you \_\_\_\_\_ is the most important factor in you choosing to attend the church you do? Whether you attend here or choose to attend elsewhere or move away, may it be that the most important factor in choosing a church is not the music, the style of preaching, the ministries or the doctrinal persuasion but may the issue of first importance be that the pastors are biblically qualified. For if the pastors are truly ordained and qualified of God then all of importance (music, doctrine, preaching) will fall in line, being \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_. And there you will be on safe ground as Christ is exalted in His church.

This is about the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in His church!

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