

Forest City Bible Church

April, 2015

The following are the scriptures that we look toward for guidance in seeking elders at Forest City Bible Church. We believe that elders should be striving to live the biblical qualifications as laid out in scripture.

Qualifications

1 Timothy 3:1-7:

"The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.² Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.⁴ He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive,⁵ for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷ Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil."

Throughout the New Testament, the terms "elder" and "overseer" refer to the same office. (See, for example, the nearly identical list of qualifications in Titus 1:5-9, as well as 1 Timothy 5:17— 19; and 1 Peter 5:1-4.)

In this passage, Paul presents a series of qualifications for men who desire to be elders:

Above Reproach v2, The husband of one wife v2, sober-minded v2, self-controlled v2, respectable v2, hospitable v2, able to teach v2, not a drunkard v3, not violent but gentle - v3, not quarrelsome v3, not a lover of money v3, a good manager of his household, keeping his children submissive v4-5, not a recent convert v6, well thought of by outsiders v7

Titus 1:5-9

Qualifications for Elders

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— ⁶ if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife,^[a] and his children are believers^[b] and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. ⁷ For an overseer,^[c] 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, ⁸ but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. ⁹ He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound^[d] doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

1 Timothy 5:17-19

17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. 18 For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages." 19 Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

1 Peter 5:1-4

Shepherd the Flock of God

5 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, [\[a\]](#) not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; [\[b\]](#) not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Hebrews 13:17

17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

On behalf of the Leadership Team,

Don Britton - Chair