1 – **Qualifications Of Elders – Part 2 - God’s Pattern For The Church**

1 Timothy 3 - Titus 1

2 - **God’s Plan For the Local Church**

* The church in Philippi had *“****saints****… including* ***overseers*** *(bishops; NKJV & ASV) and* ***deacons****”*. (Philippians 1:1)
* **Every church** is to have elders. (Acts 14:23)
* Every church is to have **it’s own elders**.
(Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2)
* **Deacons are to serve**. (1 Timothy 3:8ff)

3 - **God’s Plan For the Local Church**

* Titus was left in Crete *“that you would* ***set in order what remains*** *and* ***appoint elders*** *in every city as I directed you”.* (Titus 1:5; cf., Ephesians 4:11)
* ***“Set in order”*** - “in the sense of **setting right again what was defective**” (Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)
* ***“What remains”*** - “to be lacking or absent, to fail” (Thayer) “**Wanting or deficient**” (NT Word Studies)
* The Lord’s church is “**lacking**” or “**deficient**” without elder**s** and needs to be “**set right again**”.

4 - **« If Any Man Aspire…  »**

***“Aspire”* - “to stretch oneself, i.e., reach out after” (Strong)**

**Why would a man “aspire”?**

1. **Concern for the purity and soundness** of the **Lord’s church**. (Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Timothy 3:15)
2. **A love for the souls of others**. (1 Peter 1:22; 2 Cor. 12:15)
3. **A love for the truth of the gospel**. (Titus 1:9-11; Acts 20:28)
4. **Commitment to the work**! (Titus 2:14; 3:1, 8, 14)
5. **Commitment to continued growth**! (2 Peter 1:5-10)

5 - **« If Any Man Aspire…  »**

**What are our aspirations?**

**Are they fleshly and temporal?** (1 Timothy 6:10)

**Are they spiritual and eternal?** (Hebrews 11:16)

*“But as it is,* ***they desire a better country****, that is,* ***a heavenly one****. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for* ***He has prepared a city for them****.”*

6 - **«Above Reproach»**

1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6

“Not open to censure, irreproachable”. (Vine)

“One who has **nothing which an adversary could seize upon with which to base a charge**.” (NT Word Studies)

**How so?** (Romans 3:23)

**Forgiven through the blood of Jesus Christ!** (Romans 6:3-4; 1 John 1:7-9)

**All Christians are to live this way**. (Colossians 1:21-22; 1 Timothy 6:14)

7 - **«Husband Of One Wife»**

1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6

**One man & one woman** in a **scriptural** marriage. (Mark 6:18)

May one go to heaven and not be married?

What about **one whose wife died** (Romans 7:1-3) or whose wife was **put away for the cause of fornication** (Matthew 19:19) and has **scripturally remarried**?

**God’s laws re: marriage apply to all.** (1 Timothy 5:9; Matthew 19:4-9; Romans 7:1-3)

8 - **«Temperate»**

1 Timothy 3:2

***“Vigilant”*** (NKJV); ***“Sober-minded”*** (ESV)

To be “**circumspect**”, “self-controlled”, vigilantly “**watchful**”. (NT Word Studies) Includes idea of not intoxicated (at all).

**What are they watching for**? (Acts 20:28-29;
Hebrews 13:17; Hebrews 2:1; 1 Peter 5:8)

**What are all of us to be watching for**? (1 Corinthians 15:33-34; 1 Peter 5:8; Hebrews 2:1)

9 - **«Prudent»**

1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8

***“Self-Controlled”*** (ESV); ***“Sober-minded”*** (ASV; NKJV)

“Curbing one’s desires and impulses” (Thayer). “**Self-disciplined in one’s freedom**, **self-restrained** in all passions and desires”. (NT Word Studies) (1 Corinthians 6:12)

**All Christians** are to be… (Titus 2:2, 5; Luke 12:42)

**What we need**… (Acts 26:25; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Peter 1:6)

10 - **«Respectable»**

1 Timothy 3:2

***“Orderly”*** (ASV); ***“Of good behavior”*** (NKJV)

“**Well-arranged,** seemly” (Thayer). “**Modest**”. (Vine)
(1 Timothy 2:9) A well-ordered life.

“**Behaves himself well** in his earthly citizenship and **is an asset**…” (NT Word Studies)

**All Christians** are to be… (Colossians 2:5; 1 Peter 2:11-12; 2 Timothy 2:21)

11 - **«Hospitable»**

1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8

“**Generous to guests**” (Thayer). “**Fond of guests**”. (Vine).

**All Christians** are to be… (Romans 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9; Hebrews 13:2)

Be a “***neighbor***” (Luke 10:33).

How we “***knit”*** **our hearts together**! (Colossians 2:2)

12 - **«Able To Teach»**

1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9

“***Holding fast the faithful word*** *which is in accordance with* ***the teaching****, so that he will be able both to* ***exhort in sound doctrine*** *and to* ***refute those who contradict***.”(Titus 1:9; cf., Malachi 2:6) “**Apt and skillful in teaching**” (Thayer)

False teachers to be “***silenced***”. (Titus 1:11; Galatians 2:5)

Required of “***the Lord’s bondservant***”. (2 Timothy 2:24; cf., 1 Timothy 2:2; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 8:4)

***“By reason of time…”***, (Hebrews 5:12)