

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

1 Tim 3:1-7

1 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.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. 5 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Also read:

1 Peter 5:1-5

Hebrews 13:17

Titus 1:5-9

Study Guide 7 Nov 2010 –



Summary

It is ideal that every man in the church live so that they be qualified to be an elder whenever they are called. An elder's judgment will be greater (James 3:1; Heb 13:17) as they are called by God to be responsible for the flock.

We should be encouraged to re-evaluate our concepts of elderships and what it means to us, as members of the church. We cannot let it become mere title or administration, but allow the roles of overseer, shepherd and elder to effectively lead and pastor each one of us, since this is God's desire for our spiritual benefit.

We ought also to hold our elders to account for their conduct, not with glee or faultfinding, but gently (1 Tim 5:1) because we recognize the authority they have over our lives and wish that they be as accountable as they can and blameless before God.

We need to consider how we work with our elders – how we make their work effective and fruitful – since we are the main beneficiaries of their labour. They should be encouraged to perform their ministry, which is for our sake also.

Key points

Elders lead, strengthen and protect the church. Our relationship with them is vital to the success of their work.

Explanation

>>What are elders to me? What do they do? How do I relate to them?

>>Why do elders face a greater judgment than non-elders?

>>How does leadership in school, work or politics contrast with eldership in the church?

Application

>>When and how would you point out to an elder that he has done something wrong?

>>Read through the qualifications of an elder in the passages above and ask God to help you to meet all of them so that you will be always fit and ready for his service, whether as an elder or in another office or role. Consider these qualities each day and strive to meet them.

Final thoughts

We need to have a right understanding and relationship with elders so that we can receive the blessings that God has designed for us to receive through them and vice versa.