

Biblical Eldership

BIBLICAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR ALL ELDERS

1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, & 1 Peter 5:1-4.

- The W.H.O. believes that most developed countries characterise old age commencing at 60+ years
- Most 3rd world Countries – follow a more traditional definition of old age.
 - **between 50 to 65 years old.**
- In most western Countries, Elders are people acknowledged for their **experience**, **prominence**, **dependability**, and **power** within their community.

Three New Testament passages record key qualifications for Eldership

1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, & 1 Peter 5:1-4.

Desire for Eldership activated by the Holy Spirit

- ☞ The person recognizes a deep desire birthed within him by the Holy Spirit - Acts 20:28
 - Notice that it is the Holy Spirit who appoints a person as an overseer.
- ☞ The person senses the Holy Spirit stirring within him.
 - 1 Timothy 3:1 NLT/NIV**
 - Aspiration driven by the Holy Spirit
- ☞ The person realizes the awesome responsibility entrusted to him by God. 1 Peter 5:1 & 2 NLT

The overriding & essential qualification is: The charge and the call from the Holy Spirit.

1. The Holy Spirit deposited the pastoral desire in their hearts.
2. The Holy Spirit imparted the compulsion from within them.
3. The Holy Spirit provided the power, wisdom and appropriate gifts to care for the flock.

Three key reasons why Elders should be Biblically qualified

- 1 To protect the church from an unqualified Eldership.**
 - From a quick-tempered man. – A quarrelsome man
 - A controlling personality. – An undisciplined man
 - A dishonest, unfaithful man. – An immature man.
 - A man of inadequate discernment. – A greedy man.
 - A man who is a poor witness in the community.
- 2 To maintain The Lord's standard for all Elders**
 - For both moral and spiritual character.
 - Biblical qualifications decides the standard for the rest of the Church.
- 3 To deepen the Elders' shepherding skills.**
 - Remember the attributes for Eldership?
 - "not quick-tempered," – "gentle,"
 - "hospitable," – "not quarrelsome,"
 - "[love] of good," – "willing" to shepherd.
 - "able to give instruction in sound doctrine,"
 - This is a Biblically unqualified Elder
 - o A major cause of endless conflict in the Church.
 - o Destroys the joy and enthusiasm in the church.
 - No one should be allowed to force himself upon the God's people as an Elder/leader.

"Biblical Qualifications were strictly observed for/by all Elders in New Testament Churches"

Pastor Charles Lazaro

Sunday – 3rd July 10.00 AM

Wonthaggi Baptist Church

WBC IS THE PLACE TO BE