

## 5 Trustworthy Sayings-

“The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.”

1 Timothy 3:1 ESV

## Question-

Why does the apostle Paul call this a noble task?

- Overseer- "*episkopos*" (1 Tim. 3:1)
- Elder- "*presbuteros*" (Titus 1:5)

Reasons the role of elder is called a noble task:

1. The demands of church leadership

## Acts 20:28–30 ESV

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

## 2 Timothy 3:1-3, 6

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. People will be lovers of money, lovers of self, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good...

For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions,

## 1 Timothy 5:19-21 ESV

Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality.

Reasons the role of elder is called a noble task:

## 2. The qualifications for leaders

- Ministry Skills

## Reasons the role of elders is called a noble task:

### 2. The qualifications for leaders

- Character in relation to others

Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? **1 Tim. 3:2-5 ESV**

## 1 Peter 5:1–3 ESV

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: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

# Reasons the role of elders is called a noble task:

## 2. The qualifications for leaders

- Character of his own life

*“Character is who you are when no one else is around.”*

## “the husband of one wife”

Quantitative interpretation - a man who has been married only once.

- Would eliminate men who were widowed & remarried
- Would eliminate single men (Jesus & Apostle Paul!)
- Would eliminate men who had been divorced on biblical grounds and had remarried

Qualitative interpretation- a “one-woman man”. A man who is completely faithful to his wife.

## The Point of Biblical Qualifications-

### “What is the observable pattern in this man’s life?”

- Does his life reflect a love for God, love for people, and a desire to shepherd the flock?
- Do this man’s experiences and testimony demonstrate that the grace of God and the Spirit of God are at work in him?
- Does he have a desire to make disciples?

*“He must be a spiritually mature, humble, time-proven disciple of Jesus Christ.”* --Alexander Strauch, Biblical Eldership.

With these qualifications and demands, who would sign up for this?

--Ultimately, one must be called by the Lord, even if the human desire exists.

*“Surely a steward must hold his office from the Master. He cannot be a steward merely because he chooses to be so, or he is so regarded by others.”*

--C. H. Spurgeon, Lectures to My Students

Why such a strong warning?

**Main Point-**

The opportunity to oversee the body of Christ requires that the gospel be on display in your own life.