

4-18-1968

## Elders In The Church

Wyatt Sawyer

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### Recommended Citation

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I Tim. 3:1-7

INT:

*Request sermon. Elders. Need become evident 12 mos. ago.*

Cong. interested in increasing its leadership IF we have qualified men. If not, wait patiently until do. Study place, work and qualifications of elders today and will mail you bulletin insert next Fri. for your recommendations—based on scriptural qualification. Please fill these in and hand to ELDERS NEXT Sun. A growing and dynamic congregation needs all the qualified leadership it can get. Eph. 4:11-13.

I. WHAT AN ELDER IS IS LARGELY DESCRIPTIVE OF WHAT HE DOES!

- A. Elder or older, experienced in life and problems.  
I Pet. 5:1-3. Overseer; responsive to membership.
- B. Ruler, who leads, guides and governs; shows the way.  
Heb. 13:7 & 17. "Leadership by firm character."
- C. Shepherd, who feeds and protects the flock. Bishop.  
Acts 20:28. Able to defend the faith. Titus 1:9.
- D. Watchman, or sleepless in watching over the flock.  
Heb. 13:17. Must report to God at Judgment.

**COMPOSIT DEFINITION:** An elder is one who helps lead the church of Christ into soundness of the faith, purity of morals, and ready unto every good work. Heb. 13:20  
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II. QUALIFICATIONS LISTED TO GIVE CHURCH THE VERY BEST!

A. Bible does not teach: I Tim. 3:1-7. Titus 1:5-9.

NOT! 1. Must have elders whether qualified or not.

NOT! 2. Just take the best at hand, regardless of qualific

B. Bible does teach: Select these men who can meet the minimum requirements - to begin with-willing to grow.

King James version and 14 others.

Titus 1:6.

1. Blameless: no hold-over wrongs or even charges!!

2. Husband of one wife. Free of questions or doubt.

3. Believing children. PISTOS: Gr. believing, trusting.  
a. Question: Baptized? believer! Safest!

Eph. 6:4.

b. Question: More than one? No! Gr. Teknon: one born

c. Question: One child a baptized-believer and the other unbaptized faithful child?

Conviction: Meets Spirit of the Law, but not the Letter of the Law. Both baptized sures

I Tim. 3:6. 4. No novice. Inexperienced new convert. Just planted

3:2. 5. Vigilant.. Watchfully temperant. Phil. 4:5. Mod-

3:2. 6. Seber. Sound mind, temperate & self-controller

3:2. 7. Hospitality. Loves strangers. Entertains same.

3:3. 8. Not a brawler. Not contentious and negative. No wine!

3:3. 9. Patient. KJ. Gentle. AS. GR: Equitable, fair, moderate, forbearing, not insisting on the letter of the law, considerateness that is reasonable.

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- I Tim. 3:7 10. Good reputation. Outside the church also. *Grady*
- 3:7 11. No lover of money. Sharp, dishonest trader.
- 3:2 12. Apt to teach. Able & willing to teach.

III. GOD'S ELDERS ARE NOT TO GO UNREWARDED HERE OR HEREAFTER.

- A. Worthy of double honor. I Timothy 5:17. Extra respect
- B. High esteem for their work's sake. I Thess. 5:13.
- C. Unfading crown of glory from Chief Shepherd. I P. 5:4.

CONCLUSION: We now have 4 fine elders.  
Highest compliment: Want more **JUST LIKE THEM!**

INV: **Lost souls** need help of Chief Shepherd and His spiritual shepherds in church. Acts 2:38.

**Lost members** need to heed the call of Christ and His elders in church and return to duty. Lk. 13:3

**Unattached Christians:** How comply with: Heb. 13:17.  
*Identify!* Obey! and submit!