

The Qualifications for Elders

When we consider these verses we often take an itemized approach to the requirements for holding ordained office in the church. This morning we are going to consider the requirements differently. Instead of considering each one separately, we are going to consider what general truths need to inform our thinking about spiritual leadership, maturity, and growth.

1. Unusual
 - a. Discriminating: “Serving to distinguish.” (*American Heritage Dictionary*)
 - b. Some Christians do not meet this criteria
 - c. These definitions do not describe us “as we are in Christ”

2. Universal
 - a. God’s standards for ordination are not culturally nuanced
 - b. Compare 1 Timothy 3:1-7; essentially the same list
 - c. Spiritual maturity, Christ-likeness, is supra-cultural

3. Uniting
 - a. Our common faith unites us in one Savior
 - b. Our common faith unites us in one salvation

Application:

1. Are we striving to be made complete (mature) in Christ and to have him formed in us? (Colossians 1:28)
2. Since there are many who do not reflect this standard of spiritual maturity in every healthy church, are we able to give and receive sound doctrine?
3. Do you need to stop contradicting the gospel and the life that it calls us to?