

Coram Deo Bible Church

Biblical Qualifications and Definitions for Elders

1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-5

Above reproach: Elders must live in such a way that they cannot be legitimately accused of habitual sin.

Husband of one wife: Elders, if married, must be men who have demonstrated a singular love, devotion, and commitment to their wives.

Sober-minded: Elders must be able to think and judge clearly, recognizing the times in which we live.

Self-controlled: Elders must be sober, sensible, wise, and balanced in judgment; not given to quick, superficial decisions based on immature thinking.

Respectable: Elders must demonstrate a well-ordered life and honorable behavior.

Hospitable: Elders must be unselfish with their personal resources, willing to share their presence, their love, and their possessions with others.

Able to teach: Elders must be able to communicate truth and sound doctrine in a loving way.

Not a drunkard: Elders must be free from alcoholic addictions and willing to limit their liberty for the sake of others.

Not violent or quick-tempered, but gentle: Elders must be gentle, patient, and able to exercise self-control in difficult situations.

Not quarrelsome: Elders must not be given to quarreling or selfish arguments.

Not a lover of money or greedy for gain: Elders must not be stingy, greedy, out for distasteful or dishonest gain, or preoccupied with amassing material things.

Manage own household well: Elders must have a well-ordered household and family life. Their children, if present, must be believers, obedient, and well-behaved.

Not a recent convert: Elders must not be new believers. They must have been Christians long enough to demonstrate the reality of their conversion and the depth of their walk.

Well thought of by outsiders: Elders must be well-respected by unbelievers and free from hypocrisy.

Not arrogant: Elders must not be stubborn, proud, prone to force opinions on others, or abusive in their authority.

Lover of good: Elders must desire to see the goodness of God in all people and situations.

Disciplined: Elders must be disciplined to focus on their responsibilities, restrain fleshly desires, and cultivate godliness.

Upright and holy: Elders must be pure of heart, living a life free from habitual sin, and growing in Christlikeness.

Holding firm to the trustworthy Word: Elders must be stable in the faith, firm in their convictions, and obedient to the truth of God's Word.