

QUALIFICATIONS

Overseers; Elders; Deacons; Deaconesses

1 Tim 3:1-7 — [Overseers] — This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a BISHOP (OVERSEER), he desires a good work. A bishop then must be *blameless*, the husband of one wife [not divorced and remarried; see chapter 5, verse 9], temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice (new convert), lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

1 Tim 3:8-13 — [Deacons] — Likewise deacons must be *reverent*, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be proved (tested); then let them serve as deacons, being found *blameless*. Likewise *their wives must be reverent*, not slanderers (malicious gossips), temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife [not divorced and remarried], ruling their children and their own houses well. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Titus 1:5 — [Elders/Overseers] — For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint ELDERS in every city as I commanded you—if a man is *blameless*, the husband of one wife [not

divorced and remarried], having faithful children not accused of dissipation (debauchery, incorrigibility) or insubordination. For a *bishop (overseer) must be blameless, as a steward of God*, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

1 Tim 5:9-15 — [Deaconesses] — Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number [made a deaconess], and not unless she has been the wife of one man [not divorced and remarried], *well reported for good works*: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work. But refuse [to enroll as deaconesses] the younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry, having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith (solemn promise). And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not. Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully. For some have already turned aside after Satan.