

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ORDINATION

Paul opens our lesson text by explaining two reasons for writing the Book of Titus – “The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.” (1:5)

This lesson will study Paul’s directive to Titus regarding **appointing elders who qualify for ordination** into the preaching and teaching ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Tim.5: 17).

Paul’s qualification for ordination given to Titus is a simply outline that we follow in DSBC. We will begin by studying this outline by two homiletical points.

- Blameless partnership of elder (presbuteros) – marriage and management of children (1:5-6)
- Blameless pastoral of overseer (episkopos) – God’s work (1:7-8) and God’s word (1:9)

This lesson will study EIGHT areas of examination required for qualifications for ordination into the teaching and preaching ministry of Jesus Christ. This study will also include 1 Tim.3: 1-7.

1. He must be a spiritual mature believer in doctrine.

“And not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.” (1 Tim.3:6) (1 Tim.5:22)

He must be able to teach sound doctrine (te hugiaino te didaskalia) – Holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.” (Titus 1:9) (1Tim.6: 3-5; 2 Tim.1: 13-14; 2:15; 3; 16-17; 4:2)

“The teaching is called ‘sound’ not only because it builds up in the faith, but because it protects against the corrupting influence of false teachers. Soundness of doctrine, faith and speech is a basic concern in all the Pastorals Letters (1, 2 Timothy; Titus). In them the word ‘sound’ occurs eight times but is found nowhere else in Paul’s writings.” (NIV, Titus 1:9)

2. He must have a good reputation with those outside the church

“And he must a good reputation (kalen marturia) with those outside (exothen) the church, **so that** he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.” (1 Tim.3:7)

3. He must identify his spiritual gift as pastor-teacher or evangelist to be ordained into these specific ministries

“It is a trustworthy statement: if (1cc / true) any man **aspires (oregeo / p.m.ind)** to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.” (1 Tim.3:1)

Oregeo means to stretch oneself out in order to obtain something of value. For example a runner would do this in a close race at the finish line. When the soul is involved, oregeo is translated aspire. The English dictionary defines aspiration, as an ambition for something desired earnestly.

The spiritual mature believer's knowledge of his spiritual gift (pastor-teacher or evangelist) will result in desiring earnestly its work and office (Eph.3: 7; 4:11-16).

4. He must be engaged in the work of his communication spiritual gift or be engaged in missionary work that requires ordination qualification for such things as marrying and burying (1 Tim.3: 1).

If missionary work, it must be well defined and under the umbrella of established church (Acts 14:21-23).

“Appoint elders in every city as I directed you.” (Titus 1:5)

5. If he is married, there is one qualification – “husband of one wife.” (1 Tim.3:2; Titus 1:6).

This deals with the issues of polygamy and improper divorce regarding holding the office of overseer.

This does not eliminate the single believer from holding the office of overseer – like Paul, Timothy or Titus.

6. If he is a parent, there is qualification regarding the parenting of his own children

“He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity. But if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?” (1 Tim.3: 4-5)

“Having his children (teknon / child at home) who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.” (Titus 1:6)

7. There are six personal disqualifications of a spiritually gifted believer from ordination (Titus 1:7; 1 Tim.3: 3).

“For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward,

- not self-willed (authade),
- not quick-tempered (orgilos),
- not addicted to wine (paroinos),
- not pugnacious (plektes),
- not fond of sordid gain (aischrokeres),
- not contentious, combative (amachos) (1 Tim.3:3).

8. There are nine personal qualifications of a spiritual gifted believer for ordination (1 Tim.3: 2; Titus 1:8-9) (1 Tim.5: 17-19).

- Hospitable (philoxenos),
- Loving what is good (philagathos),
- Sensible (sophron),
- Just (dikaios),
- Devout (hosios),
- Self-controlled (egkrates),
- Skilled in teaching doctrine (didaktikos) (1Tim.3:2; Titus 1:9; Heb.13:17; 1 Pet.5:1-3),
- Temperate, free of intoxicants, drugs (nephalios) (1Tim.3:2),
- Respectable, orderly (kosmios) (1Tim.3:2).

