

THE NEW TESTAMENT PATTERN OF LEADERSHIP FOR LOCAL CHURCHES



ELDERS / PASTORS / BISHOPS

WHAT IS AN ELDER / PASTOR / BISHOP?

Descriptive terms referencing the same office / position

(presbuteros)
“Elders”

(poimaino)
“Pastor” / “Shepherd”

(episkopeo)
“Bishop” / “Overseers”

DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF
THEIR FUNCTION OR
WORK.

**NOT DIFFERENT OFFICES
OR POSITIONS!**

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1 Peter 5:1–3 (NKJV)

¹ The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:
² Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

WHAT IS AN ELDER / PASTOR / BISHOP?

Descriptive terms referencing the same office / position

(presbuteros)
“Elders”

Denotes age and seasoned wisdom that belong to its experiences.

Acts 20:17; 1 Pet 5:1

(poimaino)
“Pastor” / “Shepherd”

Emphasizes the care, watching and feeding of the flock of God –

Act 20:28; Ep 4:11; 1 Pet 5:2

(episkopeo)
“Bishop” / “Overseers”

Denotes overseeing function – not legislative, but leading within the Law of God and applying His word to the church’s teaching and actions. –

Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 5:2; (Heb 13:7,17)

WHAT IS AN ELDER / PASTOR / BISHOP?

The Need For Elders

Acts 14:21–23 (NKJV)

²¹ And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.” ²³ So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

- After Paul & Barnabas had converted many in Lystra, they retraced their travels through Asia Minor appointing elders in every church.
- They then returned to Antioch bringing their first evangelistic journey to a close [46-48 AD]. (Acts 14:21-26)

WHAT IS AN ELDER / PASTOR / BISHOP?

The Need For Elders

Titus 1:5 (NKJV)

5 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—

- Paul temporarily “left” Titus in Crete for the express purpose of appointing elders (Titus 1:5).
- The absence of elders was considered by Paul as that which was “lacking.”

WHAT IS AN ELDER / PASTOR / BISHOP?

PLURAL IN THE SINGULAR

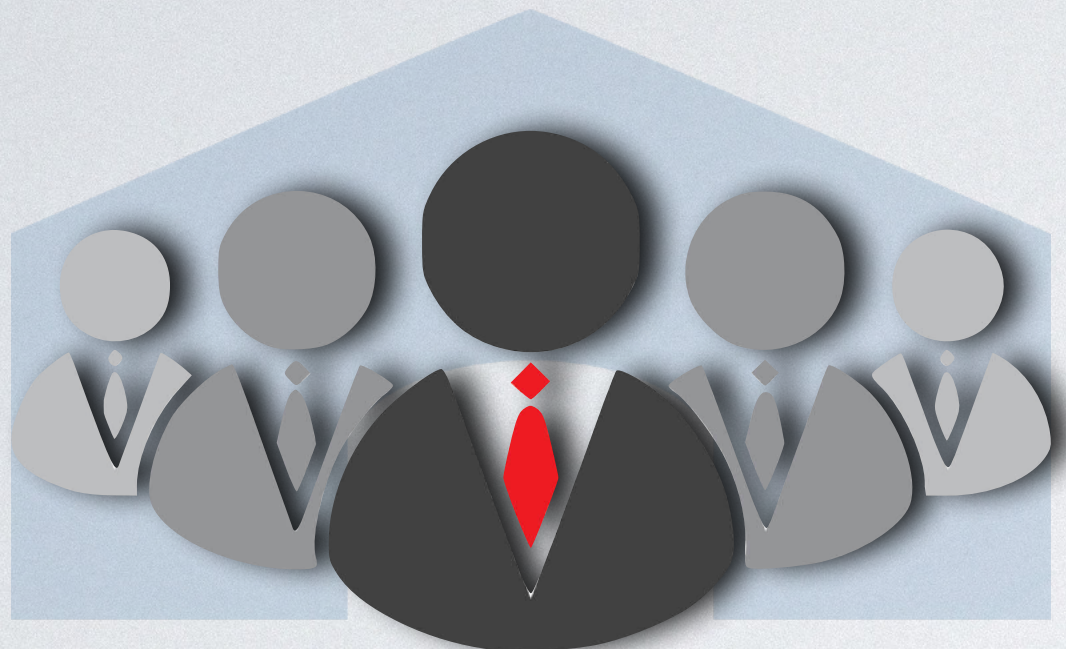


“The use of the plural here implies what was true at Philippi (Phil. 1:1) and Ephesus (Acts 20:17, 28) that each church (one in each city) “had its college of elders” (Hackett) as in Jerusalem (21:18).”

Robertson, A. (1933). Word Pictures in the New Testament. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

WHAT IS AN ELDER / PASTOR / BISHOP?

PLURAL IN THE SINGULAR



■ “So when they had appointed elders in every church” (Acts 14:23).

■ “appoint elders in every city as I commanded you” (Titus 1:5)



■ “he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church” (Acts 20:17)

■ “all the elders were present” (Acts 21:18)



■ “To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:” (Phil. 1:1)

WHAT IS AN ELDER / PASTOR / BISHOP?

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER

1 Timothy 3:1–7 (NKJV)

¹ This *is* a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. ² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; ³ not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; ⁴ one who rules his own house well, having *his* children in submission with all reverence ⁵ (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); ⁶ not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the *same* condemnation as the devil. ⁷ Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

WHAT IS AN ELDER / PASTOR / BISHOP?

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER

Titus 1:6–9 (NKJV)

⁶ if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. ⁷ For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, ⁸ but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, ⁹ 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.

The Qualifications & Character of An Elder

A Devoted Man

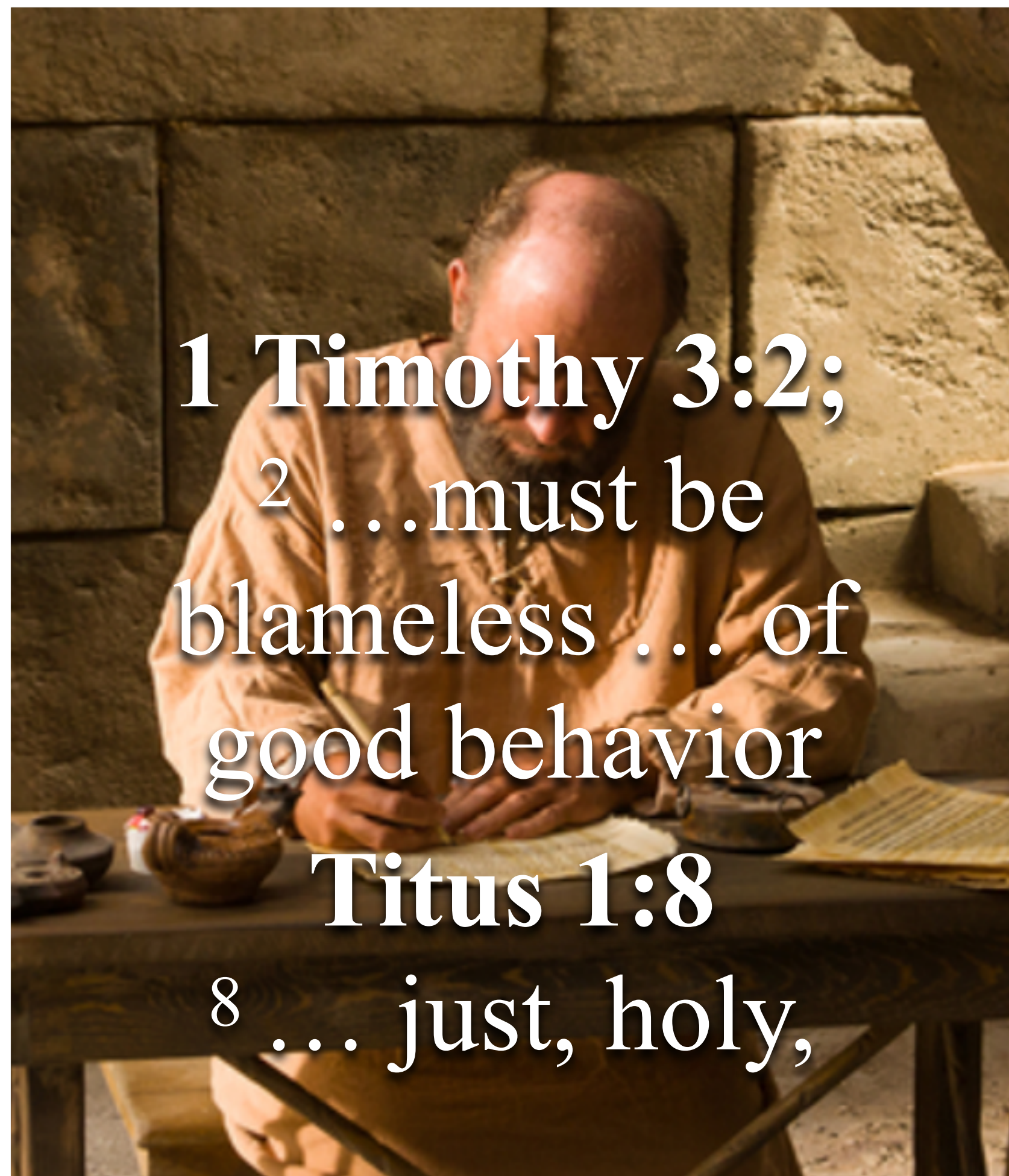
1 Timothy 3:1
(NKJV)

¹ This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.

- DESIRE: 'to strive to attain, to aspire to, to eagerly long for.'
- ▶ Not desiring authority to rule according to self will, but to serve God and brethren as a humble steward (Titus 1:7; 1 Pet 5:2, 3).
- ▶ Aspiring, NOT politicking. Humility and meekness are qualities void of self advancement (Luke 22:24-30)

The Qualifications & Character of An Elder

A Godly Man



- “Blameless” — above justifiable criticism, beyond reproach.’ (1 Tim 3:2)
- “Of Good Behavior” — orderly, modest (1 Tim 3:2)
- “Just” — does what is right in respect to God and men, fair, impartial (Tit 1:8)
- “Holy, NKJV / Devout ASV” — authentic, purity, righteous (Tit 1:8)

The Qualifications & Character of An Elder

A Godly Man

1 Timothy 3:2;

**2 ...must be
blameless ... of
good behavior**

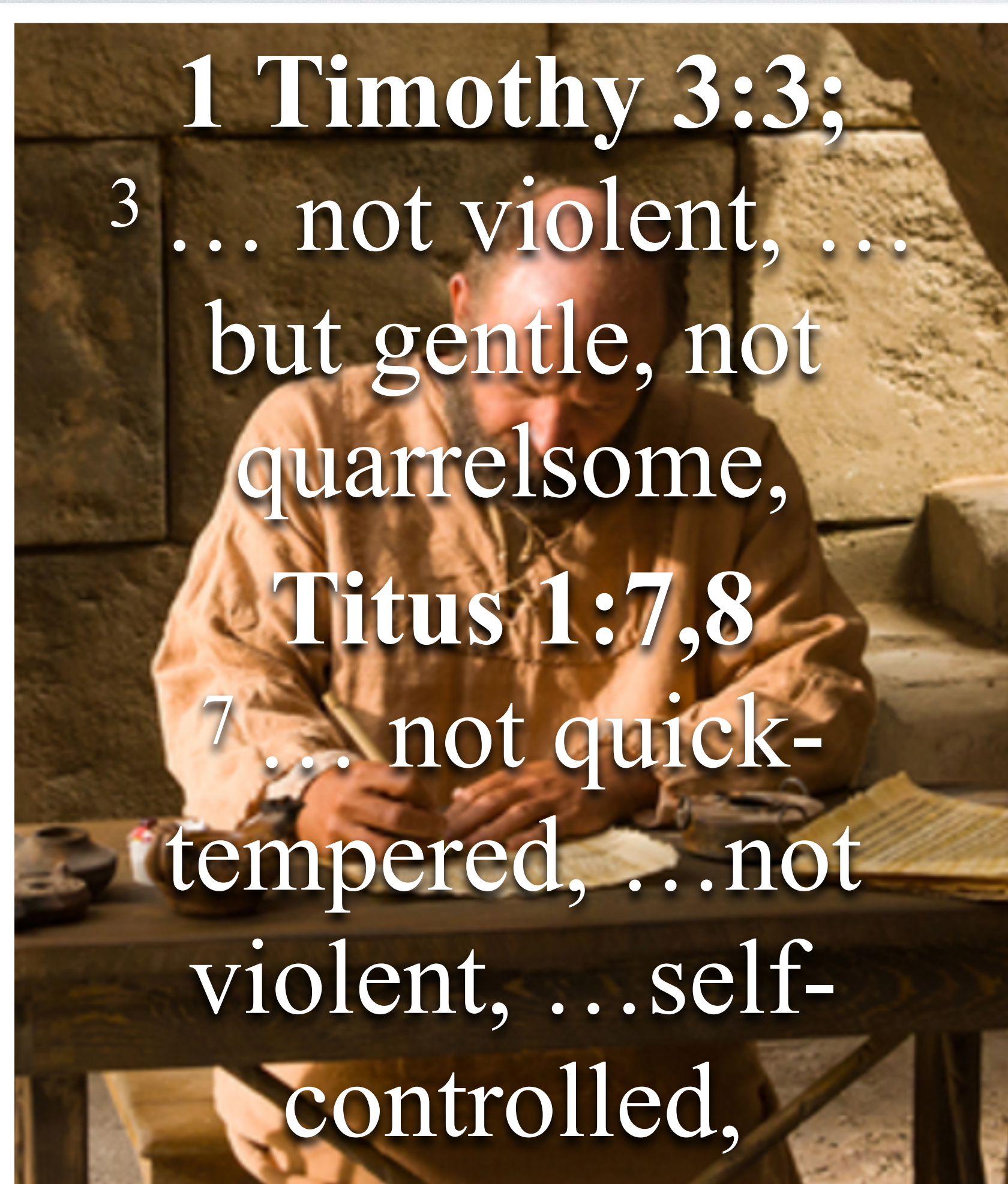
Titus 1:8

8 ... just, holy,

- To be good examples (1 Peter 5:3).
- Should be men worthy of imitation (Heb. 13:7).
- Their example in the community will reflect even more powerfully on the entire congregation. They need to be known in the community as men of integrity. (1 Tim. 3:7)

The Qualifications & Character of An Elder

A Peaceful Man

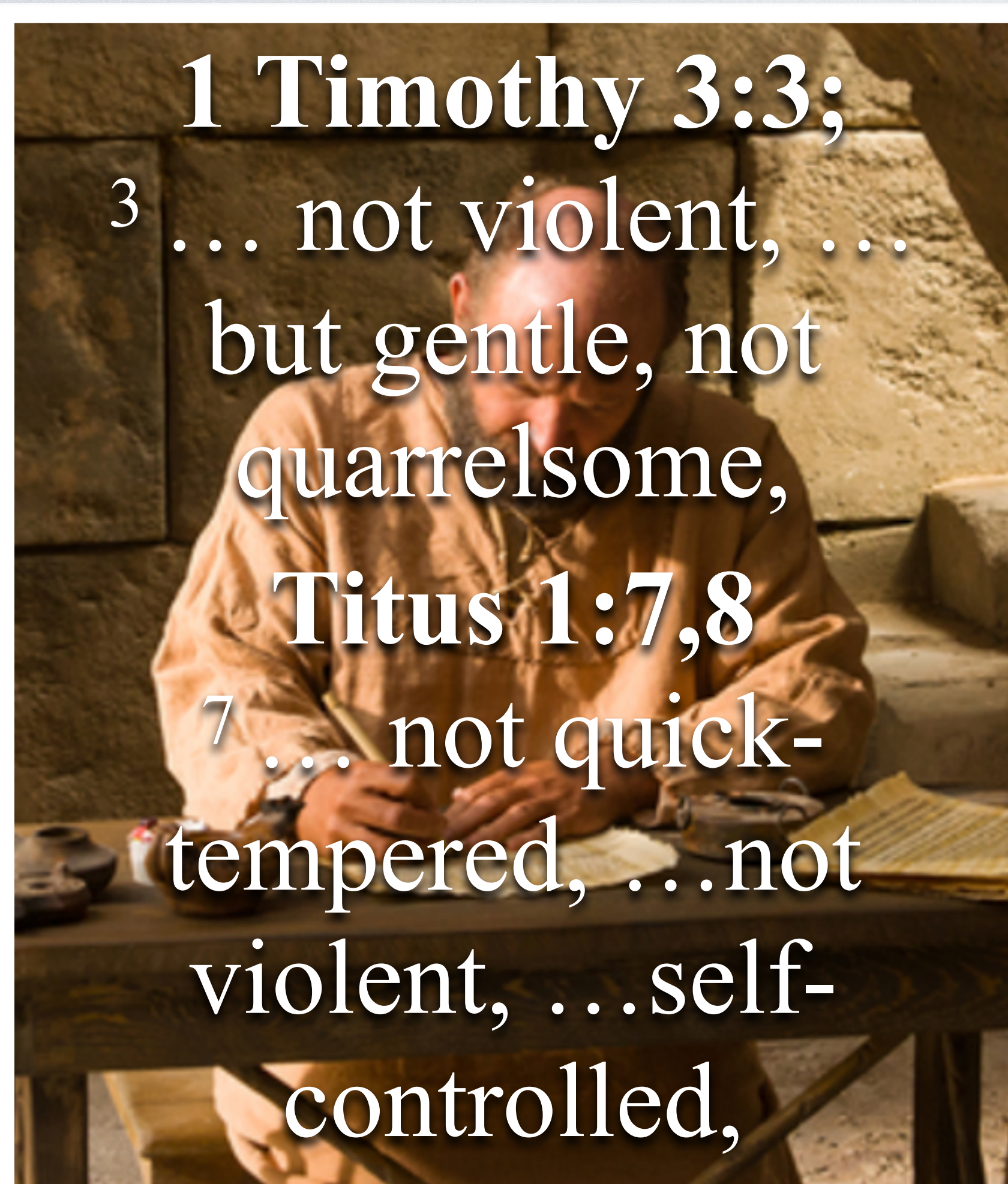


- He is to be a man of self control, not quick tempered (Titus 1:7-8)
- He is not contentious — not argumentative, pushy, or overly critical, but seeks peace and unity (1 Timothy 3:3).
- He is not self-willed — seeks only the wellbeing of the church (Titus 1:7).

The Qualifications & Character of An Elder

A Peaceful Man

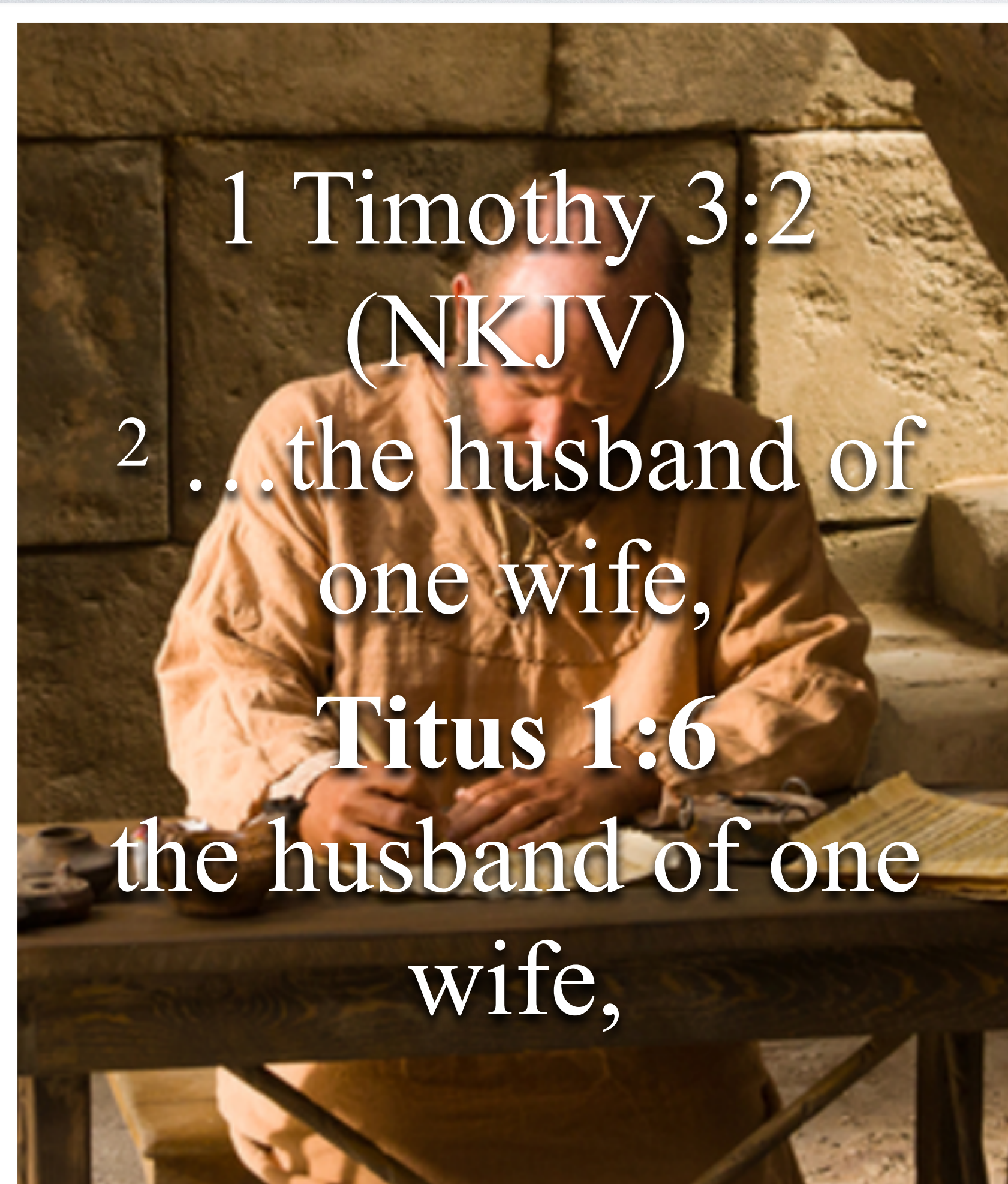
- Elders find themselves counseling brethren in highly emotional and volatile situations, where numerous parties may be involved in sin.
- They must confront brethren in sin and stop the efforts of false teachers.
- Must bear up under false accusations by some who will criticize without knowing all the facts about a situation.



The Qualifications & Character of An Elder

A Family Man

- “The husband of one wife” (1 Tim 3:2).
- ▶ Must be married (True, . . .)
- ▶ Cannot be an adulterer or polygamist (True, . . .)
- ▶ Literally, a “one woman man.” - Must have demonstrated faithfulness in his marriage. — Not merely that he is a husband, but a devoted husband.



1 Timothy 3:2
(NKJV)

2 . . .the husband of
one wife,

Titus 1:6

the husband of one
wife,

The Qualifications & Character of An Elder

A Family Man

1 Timothy 3:4 (NKJV)

⁴ one who rules his own house well, having *his* children in submission with all reverence

Titus 1:6 (NKJV)

⁶ having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.

- Must have submissive and obedient children (1 Tim. 3:3, 4; Titus 1:6).
- Child/Children argument - [The Greek word “teknon” is comprehensive / plural, but inclusive of the singular; cf Gen. 21:7; Deut. 25:5 & Mat. 22:24; Luke 20:28-33; 1 Tim. 5:4,9,10).
- Reason one must be married, and a father, is explicitly stated (1 Timothy 3:5)

The Qualifications & Character of An Elder

A Qualified Man

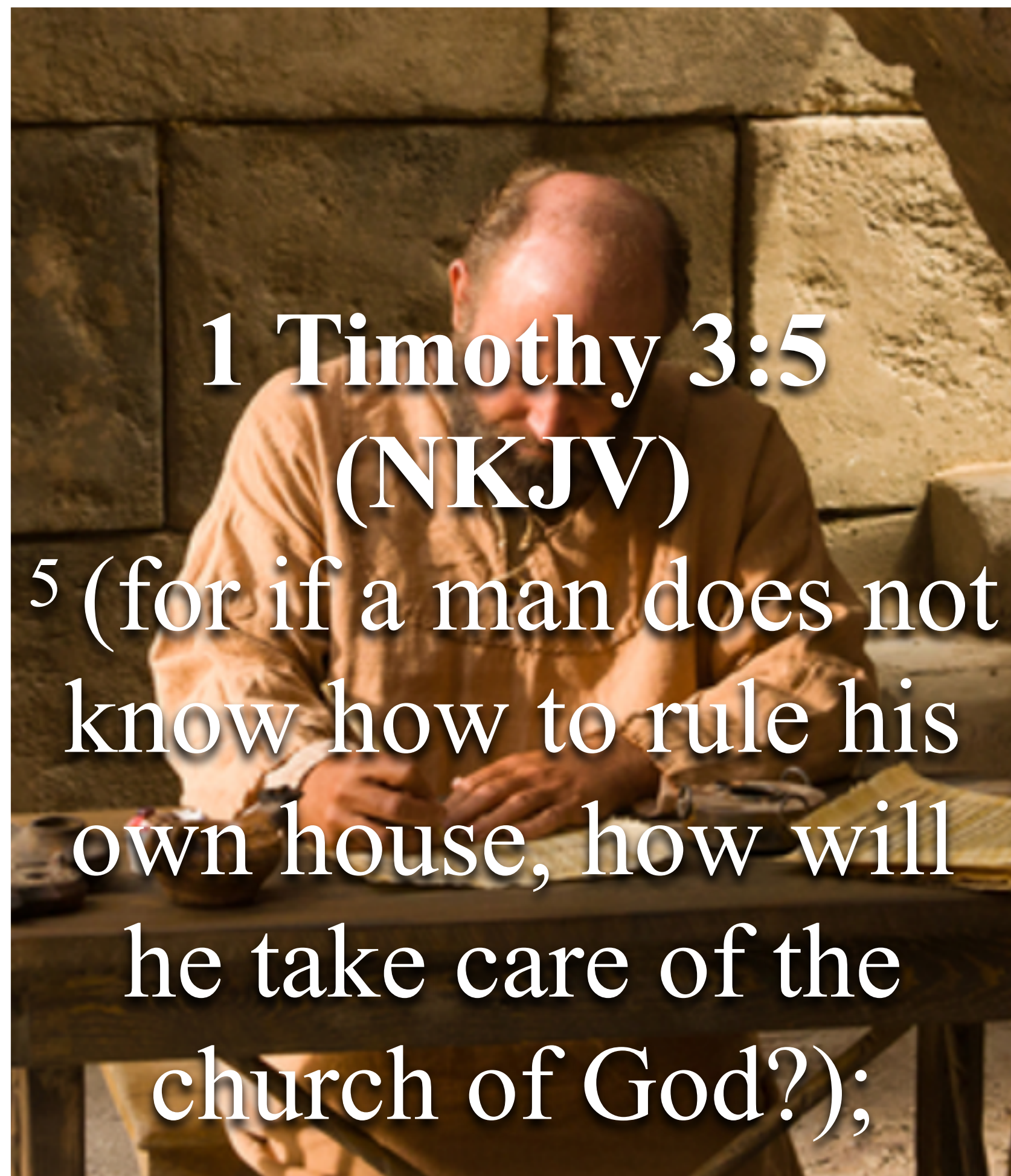
**1 Timothy 3:5
(NKJV)**

⁵ (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);

- “One who rules his own house well” (1 Tim 3:4).
- ▶ Often lost in all of the discussions over a man’s marriage, how many children he has and their faithfulness is the basic qualification –
- ▶ A man **MUST** have demonstrated his ability to oversee those under his immediate care.

The Qualifications & Character of An Elder

A Qualified Man



**1 Timothy 3:5
(NKJV)**

⁵ (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);

- “One who rules his own house well” (1 Tim 3:4).
- ▶ Has he demonstrated the ability to be a servant / leader / example / ruler over his house?
- ▶ Does he have the relational skills to work with people / provide wise counsel, guidance and discipline.

The Qualifications & Character of An Elder

A Capable Man

- “Able to teach” — didaktikon
“skilled in teaching” (1 Tim. 3:2)
- Not a novice, but mature Christian -
(1 Tim 3:6), Able to lead and take
oversight with humility (1 Pet. 5:2, 3).
- Equipped to Protect (Titus 1:9-11; cf.
Acts 20:28-29; 1 Tim 3:5; Titus 1:9-11).

1 Timothy 3:2,6
(NKJV)

2 ...able to teach;...

6 not a novice,

Titus 1:9-11

9 ...that he may be

able, by sound
doctrine, both to exhort
and convict those who
contradict.

The Qualifications & Character of An Elder

A Sensible Man

1 Timothy 3:2,6
(NKJV)

2 ...temperate, sober-minded, ... 3 not given to wine, not violent,

Titus 1:7

7 ...not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent,

- Elders are to be temperate and sober minded, prudent (1 Tim. 3:2).
- ▶ Eyes open to the way things are.
- ▶ He must be careful, wise and use good judgment - able to see the big picture.
- ▶ Not emotional, but sound reasoning.
- ▶ Holds to truth even under pressure.

The Qualifications & Character of An Elder

A Caring Man



1 Timothy 3:5
(NKJV)

⁵ (... how will he take care of the church of God?)

Titus 1:8

⁸ but hospitable, a lover of what is good,

- Elders are to “take care of the church of God” (1 Tim. 3:5).
- ▶ Encourage & support weak members (Gal. 6:1; James 5:13-16)
- ▶ Approachable (1 Tim 3:3)
- ▶ Fair and impartial (James 3:1-13)
- ▶ administers discipline (1 Tim. 3:5)

The Qualifications & Character of An Elder

A Caring Man

1 Timothy 3:5
(NKJV)

⁵ (... how will he take care of the church of God?)

Titus 1:8

⁸ but hospitable, a lover of what is good,

- Elders are to be “hospitable” (1 Tim. 3:2).
- ▶ Providing for the needs of others (Heb. 13:1-3)
- ▶ An example of love and mercy.
- ▶ He needs to know the flock (Jn 10:3,14)

ELDERS / PASTORS / BISHOPS

THE NEW TESTAMENT PATTERN OF LEADERSHIP FOR LOCAL CHURCHES

**The church of today
& tomorrow NEEDS
godly leadership!**

**Will we recognize and accept
the LORD's PATTERN as
revealed in scripture?**

ELDERS / PASTORS / BISHOPS

THE NEW TESTAMENT PATTERN OF LEADERSHIP FOR LOCAL CHURCHES

**The church of today
& tomorrow NEEDS
godly leadership!**

**Every father & mother
should strive to raise their
sons and daughters in a way
that will equip them to be
faithful servants of God**

ELDERS / PASTORS / BISHOPS

THE NEW TESTAMENT PATTERN OF LEADERSHIP FOR LOCAL CHURCHES

**The church of today
& tomorrow **NEEDS**
godly leadership!**

**Every faithful evangelist and
elder should strive to equip
each member to be faithful
servants of God (Eph. 4:16)**

ELDERS / PASTORS / BISHOPS


THE NEW TESTAMENT PATTERN OF LEADERSHIP FOR LOCAL CHURCHES

**The church of today
& tomorrow NEEDS
godly leadership!**

**Every young man should strive to grow
and mature in the faith - make wise
decisions - that will prepare him so that
one day he will be able to serve & help
shepherd the Lord's flock.**

ELDERS / PASTORS / BISHOPS

THE NEW TESTAMENT PATTERN OF LEADERSHIP FOR LOCAL CHURCHES



IS THE LORD YOUR SHEPHERD?

HE CAN BE!

WILL YOU COME TO HIM AND SERVE HIM TODAY?

(Acts 2:38; 2 Pet. 1:5-10)

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THE NEW TESTAMENT PATTERN OF LEADERSHIP FOR LOCAL CHURCHES



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Matthew 9:35–38 (NKJV)

³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. ³⁶ But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, “**The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers *are* few.** ³⁸ Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”