

Qualifications for Church Leadership

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13

(30)

1 TIMOTHY: DUTIES AND ORDER IN THE CHURCH, 1 Timothy 2:1-3:13

The Overseers of the Church, 1 Timothy 3:1-7

(1 Timothy 3:1-7) **Introduction:** the office of *bishop* is probably the same office as **elder** or **presbyter** or **minister** in the New Testament. All three words refer to the same person, to the minister of the gospel and of the church.

- 1) What are the qualifications of the minister?
- 2) Who should be preaching the gospel and filling the pulpits of the Lord's church?
- 3) Who should be considering the ministry—what kind of person?

Before discussing the individual qualifications against which all pastors are to be measured, however, Paul gives some helpful insight into the call to spiritual leadership.

1. [The office of minister or bishop \(v.1\).](#)
2. [Personal qualifications \(v.2-3\).](#)
3. [Family qualifications: the minister or bishop must rule his own home \(v.4-5\).](#)
4. [Spiritual qualifications \(v.6\).](#)
5. [Community qualifications \(v.7\).](#)

3. (1 Timothy 3:4-5) Minister— Bishop— Elder: the minister or bishop must meet one very significant family qualification.

1 Timothy 3:4-5 (NASB)

⁴*He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all [gravity] dignity*

⁵*(but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),*

There are **four keys** to producing children who bring honor to their parents.

First, a father must exercise the authority that makes it advisable for his children to obey. Disobedience must be met with immediate negative consequences. [Proverbs 13:24 \(NASB\)](#) says, “**He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently**” (cf. [Proverbs 22:15](#); [Proverbs 23:13-14](#); [Proverbs 29:15](#)).

Second, a father must have enough wisdom to make it natural and reasonable for his children to obey. Authority must not be arbitrary, but tempered with reasonableness.

Children may not challenge their father's authority, yet should understand why they are expected to behave in a certain way.

Third, a father must show a love that makes it delightful to obey. Children should be motivated to obey because they do not want their intimate love relationship with him to be hindered.

Fourth, a father must be able to convince his children of the urgency, priority, and privileges of salvation and obedience to the Word of God.

1 Timothy 3:5 (NASB)

⁵ (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)

The reason a church leader must have a well-managed home is obvious: **If a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?** The phrase **church of God** should be taken as a reference to a local assembly (cf. [1 Corinthians 1:2](#); [2 Corinthians 1:1](#)).

1 Timothy 3:5 (NASB)

⁵ (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)

Take care of is from *epimelomai*, a broad term that is used in our Lord's parable of the good Samaritan ([Luke 10:34-35](#)).

An elder is responsible for leading people to God, to holiness, to obedience, and to witness—crucial matters that must be tested in his own home.

Resolving conflict, building unity, maintaining love, and serving each other are essentials to church life that are challenges also in the home. If he succeeds in his family, he is likely to succeed in God's family. If not, he is disqualified.