

2. What standard of perfection should church leaders hold before their congregations? _____
 "Unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

The Qualifications for Church Leaders

1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:6-9



These verses list qualifications for church leaders. Some of the terms are still in common use today, while others are less familiar. After each term given below, write a brief definition or explanation of the quality required.

3. Blameless (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6) of good character and of good report
4. Vigilant (1 Timothy 3:2) keenly watchful to detect danger or trouble
5. Sober (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8) serious; free from excess in any area of life
6. Given to hospitality (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8) receiving strangers and guests warmly and generously
7. Apt to teach (1 Timothy 3:2) well able to teach
8. No striker (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7) one who will not fight
9. Not greedy of filthy lucre (1 Timothy 3:3, 8; Titus 1:7) not having excessive desire for money
10. Not a brawler (1 Timothy 3:3) one who will not get into noisy quarrels
11. Not covetous (1 Timothy 3:3) not greedy for money or motivated by money
12. One that ruleth well his own house (1 Timothy 3:4, 12) _____
a good administrator of his home and family—having obedient children
13. Not a novice (1 Timothy 3:6) not one new in the faith
14. Not double-tongued (1 Timothy 3:8) not deceitful or hypocritical
15. Having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly (Titus 1:6) having well-behaved children

These qualifications all apply to men. Nowhere does the New Testament speak of godly women as preachers or church leaders. Women do fill a very important role in the church. Paul and Jesus recognized the help of many women. Many a good leader has a godly mother behind him and a godly wife beside him. Women are important, but God's calling for them does not include the role of leadership.

The Calling of Church Leaders

The New Testament records various ways in which God called men to leadership in the early church. God's call comes through the church, under the direction of mature leaders, but it must always be God's call. The Christian ministry is not an occupation that a man chooses for himself, nor is it something that he takes up for a time on a trial basis. Many people look on religious leadership as just another job, but in God's kingdom this is not so. The man whom God calls through the church will want to labor in his calling as long as God blesses him with the ability to do it.

The work of preaching the Word and of leading and shepherding the flock requires much labor and sacrifice. The minister will encounter many trials and difficulties. To remain faithful, he must know without a doubt that God called him. If the devil can get a leader to question the validity of his call, that leader will lose his effectiveness.

8. What are three responsibilities of the local church?
 [L. 27] **to live in unity and love, to uphold truth and proclaim the Gospel, to provide nurture and discipline for local believers**

Focus

- God calls faithful, qualified men to positions of responsibility in the church.
 - The various types of church leaders should all work together for the perfecting of the saints.
 - Men must meet certain qualifications before they should be considered for leadership.
 - God calls men to leadership through the church.
 - Leaders are responsible to preach the Word and

to lead the church.

- God's leaders must remain true to His Word in all their teaching.
- God commands His people to esteem their leaders highly in love for their work's sake.

Truths for the Teacher

- Earthly leaders are often deceitful and corrupt. Modern society and the media magnify the failures of leaders, creating a mind-set of suspicion toward all leadership that can affect even Christians. We must avoid these dangers by maintaining respect for all those in authority, and by especially esteeming those who are over us in the Lord.