

1 Timothy 3:1-7: What Does a Man Need to Be to Become a Pastor?

14 Maturity Traits Required of Potential Pastors & Expected of All Believers

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.

These are God's requirements for overseers (pastors, elders). They are also presented in such a way that indicates that these are *expected* behaviors for ALL men (and all believers, except that which would be gender-specific). These traits give evidence of *active spiritual maturity* (though not spiritual perfection). These 14 traits are what God wants us as men to be, and what God wants us to raise our boys to be. **God desires & expects men to become:**

1. **Morally** _____ ("*one-woman man*")
 - a. Proper conduct with the opposite gender *anytime* (1 Tim 5:2)
 - b. Built upon a proper view of marriage as designed by God (Gen 2)
 - c. A commitment to covenant marriage for LIFE. (Mal 2:14)
 - d. Personal purity (1 Cor 6:18; Eph 5:3; Col 3:5; 1 Thes 4:3)
 - i. Before marriage and during marriage
 - ii. Purity of mind as well as actions
2. **Mentally** _____ ("*temperate*" or "*sober*")
 - a. Aware of the times
 - b. In control of one's mind (Eph 2:3; 4:17; 2 Tim 1:7; 1 Pet 1:13)
 - c. Not clouded by "prattle" (Phil 3:19; Col 3:2)
 - d. Filled with truth (Ps 1:1-3; Rom 12:2)
3. **Wisely** _____ ("*sober-minded*" or "*sensible*")
 - a. "Wise-minded"
 - b. OT = Discernment – thinking things through before deciding
4. **Properly** _____ ("*of good behavior*")
 - a. *kosmios* – "orderly" – in accordance with order
 - b. Effectively organized and structured life
 - c. Appropriate planning, organizing, operating
5. **Kindly** _____ ("*hospitable*" or "*stranger-lover*")
 - a. Kind toward others (Eph 4:32), including those you do not know
 - b. Caring beyond oneself (Phil 2:1-4; 1 Pet 4:9); not self-absorbed
6. **Skillfully** _____ ("*apt to teach*")
 - a. Informal teaching is expected of everyone. (Col 3:16; Heb 5:12-6:2)
 - b. Fathers are commanded to teach their children (Eph 6:4; Deut 6)

- c. This assumes instruction, general and specific (2 Tim 2:2; Titus 1:9)
- d. Pastoral hopefuls need to demonstrate:
 - i. A proven record *to apply/obey the Word* (3:1-7)
 - ii. A proven ability *to understand the Word* (2 Tim 1:13; Titus 2:1)
 - iii. A proven ability *to rightly divide the Word* (2 Tim 2:15)
 - iv. A proven ability *to hold to the Word faithfully* (Titus 1:9)
 - v. A proven ability *to clearly communicate the Word* (2 Tim 4:2)
 - vi. A proven ability *to accurately use the Word* (Titus 1:9,13; 2:15)
7. **Self-**_____ ("*not given to wine*")
 - a. Rejecting anything that gives up control (substances, habits, etc.)
 - b. Restricting influences (Eph 5:18)
 - c. Saying "no" and "yes" (Titus 2:12; 1 John 2:15-17)
8. **Gently** _____ ("*not violent, but "gentle"*")
 - a. We are to be known by our gentleness, not our harshness.
 - b. Both physical (blows) and figurative (words) could be involved.
9. **Calmly** _____ ("*not quarrelsome*")
 - a. "not a fighter" – Doesn't make everything a fight.
 - b. Right responses produce results (Prov 15:1)
 - c. Fight when necessary, but pick your fights. Not everything requires battle. Fighting is a last resort, not our first response.
10. **Financially** _____ ("*not covetous*")
 - a. Managing money biblically, which is an essential skill to LIFE.
 - b. Overcoming greed (covetousness), which leads to debt, financial slavery, and spiritual fruitlessness (Heb 13:5; Luke 8:14)
 - c. Learning to give as God commands, placing God first in finances (Prov 3:9-10), and giving to others in need (1 John 3:16ff).
 - d. Practicing of contentment (1 Tim 6:6-10)
11. **Domestically** _____ ("*one who rules his own house well*")
 - a. From the Garden of Eden onward, God appointed men to lead their homes (Gen 2:15-17; 18:17-19; Josh 24:15).
12. **Parentally** _____ ("*having children in submission...*")
 - a. Actively instructing and correcting (Eph 6:4) their children (see #6) and setting the example. (Phil 3:17; 2 Thes 3:9; 1 Tim 4:12)
 - b. Preparing children for godly adulthood and parenting (Ps 78:1-8)
13. **Humbly** _____ ("*puffed up with pride*")
 - a. Having a proper view of self. (Creature vs. Creator – Rom 1:20-25)
 - b. Understanding holiness, sin, and our ongoing need of God!
 - c. Understanding the danger of pride. (James 4:6; 1 John 2:16)
14. **Outwardly** _____ ("*a good testimony...*")
 - a. The need for a good testimony.
 - b. Salt, light, good works (Matt 5:13)