

Sunday, February 10, 2019

Dr. Ricky Cummings

Series: **The Role of Elders and Deacons in the Church**

Sermon: **A Healthy Church (Part Three)**

FBC Vidalia

Morning Service

**1 Timothy 3:1-13**

## Qualifications for Elders and Deacons

### Elders

The qualifications for Elders (also called Overseers and Pastors) are noted in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.

#### I. Six Desirable Personal Qualifications

1. Above reproach means that the Elder has a “sustained reputation for blamelessness,” one against who no legitimate criticism can be made.
2. Aspires to the office indicates the Elder desires to carry out the responsibilities of an Elder, rather than simply desiring a “position.”
3. Temperate implies the Elder guards against intoxication while also maintaining mental alertness and spiritual vigilance in daily life.
4. Prudent implies that the Elder is a man of self-control, one who has his passions bridled.
5. Respectable refers to “inner moral excellency and...outward orderly behavior.”
6. Gentle does not imply weakness, rather a kind, yielding, forbearing spirit.

#### II. Seven Characteristics to Avoid

1. Not addicted to wine is a phrase that literally means “one who does not sit long at his wine.”
2. Not pugnacious means that he is not a bully, he is “not given to blows or violence.”
3. Uncontentious is a similar word implying “disinclined to fight.”
4. Free from the love of money literally means “not a silver lover.”
5. Not fond of sordid gain refers to one who refuses to make a profit by shameful or disgraceful ways.
6. Not self-willed means that the Elder does not seek to “please himself.”
7. Not quick-tempered means one who does not suddenly blaze in anger.

#### III. Five Social Qualifications

1. Husband of one wife literally means “a one woman man.”
2. Manages his own household well means that the Elder “stands before his household as a leader and as an example.”
3. Having children who believe refers to the Elder, who has children, being one who instructs his own children in the faith so that his teaching has full credibility with his own children.
4. Hospitable literally means “lover of strangers.”
5. A good reputation with those outside implies that the Elder’s life is exemplary to the non-Christian as well as the Christian.

#### IV. Six Spiritual Qualifications

1. Loving what is good means that he devotes his life to what is best and wholesome.
2. Not a new convert literally means “not one who is newly planted.”
3. Just is a word which refers to personal righteousness.
4. Devout refers to the Elder’s personal holiness, so that he lives a life “separated unto God.”
5. Holding fast the faithful Word implies that an Elder must be “stable in his faith and obedient to the Word in all respects.”
6. Able to teach does not necessarily mean the Elder has the spiritual gift of teaching, but it does mean he is well-versed in God’s Word and is able to instruct others in the church from the Word.

#### Deacons

The qualifications for Deacons are stated in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

1. Likewise must be men of dignity is a statement similar to the “above reproach” characteristic of an Elder.
2. Not double tongued expresses that the Deacon does not “talk out of both sides of his mouth.”
3. Not addicted to much wine refers to a Deacon’s self-control in the area of intoxicating drink.
4. Not fond of sordid gain implies the Deacon abstains from greediness or being controlled by wealth.
5. Holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience points to the fact that the Deacon is confident and clear in his salvation, as well as certain of his walk with Christ.
6. Let these also first be tested means that Deacons are to be “proven” men.
7. Women [Deacon’s wives] must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.
8. Husbands of only one wife means “a one woman man.”
9. Good managers of their children and their own households means that his family and his personal business dealings demonstrate the evidence of his spiritual leadership.