

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICE: *The Eldership and Deaconate***

**Part C- (Negative) Moral Qualifications for Office**

*Texts: 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1: 5-9*

- THE QUALIFICATIONS ARE ROUGHLY DIVIDED INTO TWO BROAD CLASSIFICATIONS, EACH WITH TWO SUB-CLASSIFICATIONS
  - a. Situational Qualifications for Church Office, General & Familial
  - b. Moral Qualifications for Church Office, Positive & Negative

**MORAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICE**

- **Positive (things he must be)**
  - **Above Reproach** (1 Tim 3:2; Titus 1:6)
  - **Sober-minded** (1 Tim 3:2)
  - **Self-controlled** (1 Tim 3:2; Titus 1:8)
  - **Respectable** (1 Tim 3:2; 1 Tim 3:8- 'dignified')
  - **Hospitable** (1 Tim 3:2; Titus 1:8)
  - **Gentle** (1 Tim 3:3)
  - **A Lover of Good** (Titus 1:8)
  - **Upright** (Titus 1:8)
  - **Holy** (Titus 1:8)
  - **Disciplined** (Titus 1:8)
  - **Sound in Faith and Life** (1 Tim 3:9) {Deacon List}
  - **Tested** (1 Tim 3:10) {Deacon List}
- **Negative (things he must not be)**
  - **Not a Drunkard** (1 Tim 3:3; Titus 1:7)
    - Consider in the (obverse) context of: **Sober-minded**
      - *Addicted to wine or other strong drink. Doesn't labor with addictive behaviors, and lack self-control. It is the obverse of sober-minded. While wine is not sinful in itself, and total abstinence is not really a virtue, loss of self-control and overuse of alcohol to the point of drunkenness is a disqualification.*
  - **Not Violent** (1 Tim 3:3; Titus 1:7)
    - Consider in the (obverse) context of: **Gentle**
    - *Pugnacious. A fighter. Irritable, bad-tempered. A man ready to fight rather than calmly reason at all. A man characterized as violent, verbally or physically abusive. The polar opposite of patient.*
  - **Not Quarrelsome** (1 Tim 3:3) [Cf. **Not Quick Tempered**]
    - Consider in the (obverse) context of: **Self-controlled**
    - *A man who goes the extra mile to reason and convince. Rhetorically astute without being domineering and unreasonable. Able to give reason from Scripture without compromise, but not looking for a fight with every disagreement.*
  - **Not A Lover of Money** (1 Tim 3:3; Titus 1:7)
    - Consider in the (obverse) context of: **A Lover of Good**
    - *(cf: 1 Tim 6:9,10). Not a spendthrift. Not miserly. A lover of God, not a lover of Mammon. A Steward of resources entrusted to his care and not a hoarder. A man who sees ministry with "the eye of faith" sometimes in contradiction to generally accepted accounting practices. Not greedy for gain.*

- **Not Arrogant** (Titus 1:7)
  - Consider in the (obverse) context of: **Hospitable**
  - *An arrogant man is a self-willed man. A man constantly insisting that things be done his way. Cancels the very concepts of being gentle and forbearing if the thing allowed is contrary to his own way. Inconsiderate of the thoughts, and opinions of others. NOT A TEAM PLAYER*
- **Not Quick-tempered** (Titus 1:7) [Cf. **Not Quarrelsome**]
  - Consider in the (obverse) context of: **Self-controlled**
  - *(cf: Ps 103:8; Prov 29:22; Jas 1:20). Those who lead the church should model our Heavenly Father... not (perhaps) their earthly fathers. Not easily provoked or angered. Able to control even "righteous anger" as frequently is the necessary biproduct of some ministry efforts.*
- **Not Double-tongued** (1Tim 3:8) {Deacon List}
  - *Greek "dilogos"-literally 'something said twice' but in the context of two different stories for different hearers. Two-faced, insincere, a man-pleaser, and ear-tickler. A Deacon is a man who must be careful with his tongue, and speak the truth in love.*