

Introduction

- I. There are many qualifications that a man must have to serve in the offices in the church, but there is one that is necessary and indispensable.
- II. This one necessary qualification is love for Jesus.

The Chief Qualification of Christ's Officebearers

I. *What It Is*

A. In the text, Jesus restores Peter to the office of the ministry.

1. Peter was suspended from his office because he denied Jesus three times.

2. Jesus reinstates Peter to his office with the question, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?

B. Love for Jesus is the fundamental qualification for a minister, elder, and deacon.

II. *How It Is Shown*

A. The elders, deacons, and pastor will show their love for Jesus by feeding the sheep.

1. God has appointed the elders to the care of the flock, as we read in Acts 20:28.

2. The deacons are called to feed the sheep and lambs also in the specific work they do.

3. This certainly is the calling of pastor, giving himself in the ministry of the word.

B. The officebearers are called to feed and to shepherd the entire flock.

III. *How to Answer*

A. In his answer Peter confessed his love for Jesus using a lesser word.

B. Peter's answer is beautiful because he grounded his answer, not on his own behavior or attitude, but only on Jesus' knowledge of Peter's love.