

**Titus 1:6-7a — “Every Pastor/Elder Must Be Above Reproach in the Home (In Marriage & With His Children)”**

One of the ways that Satan has effectively weakened & defiled the people of God is to adulterate the marriages of those who lead God’s people.

The man who serves as an elder must be above reproach in domestic piety -- in his marriage & in his parenting, in his sexuality & in his leadership in the home.

### **Why such high qualifications?**

Because CHRIST is the Head of His Church & He is the Chief Shepherd, the Good Shepherd! All of His under-shepherds must faithfully represent him and diligently care for His people well.

**THESIS — From Titus 1:5-9 we will learn God’s blueprint for biblical church leadership.**

v.6a - he must be — ABOVE REPROACH — in 3 primary realms:

1. domestic piety (6-7a) – in the **HOME**
2. honorable character (7-8) – in the **HEART**
3. theological fidelity (9) – in the **ABILITY**

## **I. ABOVE REPROACH IN DOMESTIC PIETY (6-7a)**

**The home is the training ground for public ministry!**

He must be ‘above reproach’ in the home in two realms:

### **1. Sexual Purity -- *faithfulness to his wife***

He must be a “**one-woman-man**”

There are 4 primary views regarding the interpretation of this qualification:

- (1) He must be married.
- (2) He must not remarry if his first wife died.
- (3) He must not have more than one living wife (polygamy).
- (4) He must remain true and faithful to his wife.\***

The focus is not the status of the man’s marital condition, but the passions of his heart condition.

This means the qualified elder must have his body, his eyes, his heart, his feelings, desires are FOR HIS WIFE ALONE:

- a) **He communes with God** [he is near to God]
- b) **He flees from temptation** [when temptation comes; he runs/flees]
- c) **He resists temptations by Grace** [he doesn't give up, give in, but resists]
- d) **He pursues his wife** [he's passionately pursuing his God-given gift]
- e) **He is satisfied with his wife** [exhilarated, happy, satisfied, content with her]
- f) **He remembers marriage pictures the gospel** [causes him to be faithful]

How does a man do this? How is he a 'one-woman-man'?

- (1) DEVOTION (to God),
- (2) DISTANCE (from temptation)
- (3) DRINK/DELIGHT (in his wife)

The godly minister must be able to say “NO” to activities, invitations, events as needed so can can prioritize his family. He understands his wife *IS* his first ministry. She's not a hindrance to his ministry, she *IS* his foremost ministry.

He knows if he is disqualified in the home, he's disqualified in the ministry

## **2. Domestic Piety -- leadership of his children**

He must have 'children who believe' (NASB)

2 primary views on this:

- (1) believers; they must be Christians; it refers to the spiritual state of the children
- (2) **\*faithful/trustworthy**; they must be obedient, respectful, dutiful; it refers not to their spiritual condition but to their orderly/disciplined conduct.\*

Look at the last part of v.6 - it further explains the character of the children who are faithful (not accused of dissipation or rebellion). The context shows the contrast is *NOT* made between believing and unbelieving children but rather between obedient, respectful children and lawless, uncontrolled children.

The following, descriptive phrase of the children (v.6b) -- not accused of dissipation and rebellion -- stresses the *behavior* of the children, not the eternal state of the children.

### **The point for having this as a qualification for an overseer:**

- How does the man parent and lead and shepherd his children?

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- Does the elder excuse his kids sin or discipline the kids for their sin?
- His response will show how qualified he is to serve as an elder.
- The one who leads diligently, pastors faithfully, teaches biblically, exhorts fatherly, rebukes tenderly & walks patiently with his kids shows what kind of pastor he’ll be.

So then, church family, heed the call of the author of Hebrews in 13:18 — “Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things”

**Pray...**

1. for your pastor
2. for your pastor’s wife
3. for your pastor’s children
4. for your pastor’s schedule/time management
5. for your pastor’s heart

Verse 7 reveals that the overseer is **God’s steward**:

The idea of being a “steward” includes the *combination* of 3 ingredients:

1. **stewardship** (a task given by God; not self appointed)
2. **accountability** (accountable/give account to God)
3. **diligence/faithfulness** (hard worker, diligent, focused, labor!)

## **O THE DEEP DEEP LOVE OF JESUS**

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!  
Rolling as a mighty ocean  
In its fullness over me!

Underneath me, all around me,  
Is the current of Thy love  
Leading onward, leading homeward  
To Thy glorious rest above!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Spread His praise from shore to shore!  
How He loveth, ever loveth,  
Changeth never, nevermore!  
How He watches o’er His loved ones,

Died to call them all His own;  
How for them He intercedeth,  
Watcheth o’er them from the throne!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Love of every love the best!  
Tis an ocean vast of blessing,  
Tis a haven sweet of rest!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Tis a heaven of heavens to me;  
And it lifts me up to glory,  
For it lifts me up to Thee!