

APPOINTING ELDERS

July 9, 2017

Upper West Manhattan
Church of Christ

LOOKING FOR MEN...

1....According to God's standard and instruction.

- Not what we think, but what God has said
- Is the burden on the side of having an eldership... or on the side of not putting in unqualified men?

Pressure to have
elders in place

We must appoint
godly, qualified Elders

Pressure to not
wrongly appoint



LOOKING FOR MEN...

2....Above reproach.

- “No serious accusation can be brought against them”
- This seems to be the organizing principle in the qualification lists.

Titus 1:5-9

⁵This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might set right what was lacking and appoint Elders in each town (as I directed you):

⁶if someone is blameless,

a one-woman man,

having children who are faithful and not with a reputation of living recklessly or being insubordinate.

⁷For an overseer, as God's steward, must be blameless,

not stubborn, not quick tempered, not a drunkard, not a bully, not greedy for money,

⁸but loving strangers, loving what is good, self-controlled, righteous, devout, disciplined,

⁹holding fast to the faithful word according to what was taught, so that he might be able to both encourage with healthy teaching and also expose those who contradict.

1 Timothy 3:1-7

¹This is a faithful saying: if anyone aspires to the office of an overseer, it is a good work he wants.

²Therefore, an overseer must be above reproach,
a one-woman man;

temperate, self-controlled, respectable, loving strangers, able to teach,

³not a drunkard, not a bully, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of
money,

⁴ruling his own house well, with his children in obedience with all
reverence (⁵for if someone does not know how to rule his own
house, how will he take care of the house of God?)

⁶and not a new convert, so that he does not become puffed up and fall
into the condemnation of the devil.

⁷For an overseer must also have a good testimony from outsiders, so that
he does not fall into disgrace and the snare of the devil.

LOOKING FOR MEN...

2....Above reproach.

- “No serious accusation can be brought against them”
- This seems to be the organizing principle in the qualification lists.
- If we imagine an accusation being brought forward, how do we react?

LOOKING FOR MEN...

3....to be Family Leaders.

- Elders over Israel: City, Tribe, Nation
- Fathers of the people (Joshua 24:15)
- Ideally, we are selecting the kind of person you WANT to go to when you have problems.

LOOKING FOR MEN...

4....who have proven themselves in their family.

- Family is testing ground and training ground.
- Children are often the most accurate showcase of who someone really is.
(1 Tim 5:24-25)
- We may wish a guy handled things differently (matters of judgment)...
but how did his children turn out?

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. (Hebrews 13:17, ESV)

Now I urge you, brothers — you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints — be subject to such as these, and to every fellow worker and laborer. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence, for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such people. (1 Corinthians 16:15-18)

Are you willing to follow godly leaders?

- Lets give a hypothetical...

Right now, what are the things you know you can do to step up *without having an elder to tell you and make you?*