



Church Overseers

May 14 & 17, 2026

Ice Breaker

What's one quality you most appreciate in a good leader you've had in your life - whether a teacher, coach, boss, or family member?

Key Verses

- 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- 1 Timothy 3:4-5
- Titus 1:9
- 1 Timothy 4:6

Questions

What does it mean that aspiring to be an overseer is a fine work and why is this perspective important for the church?

How do the qualifications for elders in verses 2-3 reflect the character of Christ, and which of these qualities should all Christians pursue?

Why is being skilled in teaching specifically required for elders but not mentioned for other church roles?

What is the connection between leading one's household well and being qualified to lead the church? How does this principle apply beyond formal church leadership?

How can a church balance the need for thorough evaluation of potential leaders with encouraging Christians to aspire to leadership?

What are some ways false teaching can infiltrate churches today, and how can church members help their leaders hold firmly to the faithful Word?

Why is having a good reputation with those outside the church important for church leaders? What does this look like practically?

How can the whole church family encourage and support their pastors/elders in meeting these biblical standards?

Life Application

This week, identify one of the character qualities mentioned in the elder qualifications (such as being temperate, hospitable, gentle, or free from the love of money) that you want to grow in personally. Choose specific actions you can take to develop this quality, and consider how growing in this area will help you better serve Christ and others in your church family.

Key Takeaways

Aspiring to be a pastor/elder is a wonderful and noble desire that should be encouraged, especially among young men

Elders must be spiritually mature individuals who meet specific biblical qualifications, not chosen based on popularity, wealth, or political skill

Elders must be skilled in teaching and able to hold firmly to God's Word while refuting false teaching

Multiple elders should lead each local church to provide mutual accountability and shared leadership responsibilities

Many of the qualifications for elders reflect Christ-like character that all Christians should pursue, even if not appointed to formal leadership

Ending Prayer

Father, thank You for Your Word and for the clear guidance You've given us about church leadership. We pray for our current pastors and elders, that You would strengthen them and help them continue to meet these biblical standards. Raise up the next generation of godly leaders in our church, and help all of us to pursue the Christ-like character described in these qualifications. Protect our church from false teaching and help us to always hold firmly to Your truth. May we be a church that honors You in how we select, support, and follow our leaders according to Your Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.