



The Character and Conviction of the Elder

Titus 1:7-9

While the character traits in the passage are to be expected of and exemplified by elders and pastors, they are traits that should be pursued by all according to Scripture. Review the following passages to see this responsibility given to all believers: [Matthew 6:33](#). Below you will see the 11 characteristics with some appeals from Scripture to pursue them.

Character Trait	Scripture
Not arrogant / Not self-willed	Philippians 2:3
Not quick-tempered	James 1:19
Not a heavy drinker / Not addicted to wine	Ephesians 5:18
Not violent / Not pugnacious	Romans 12:18
Not dishonest with money / Not greedy for gain	Proverbs 28:6
Enjoys guests in home / Be hospitable	1 Peter 4:9
Love what is good	Philippians 4:8
Live wisely / Be sensible / Be self-controlled	Romans 12:2
Be just / Be upright / Be righteous	Micah 6:8
Be devout / Be holy	Hebrews 12:14
Be disciplined / Be self-controlled	1 Timothy 4:7-8

These character traits are also connected to a life tempted towards the sins of the flesh compared to a life led and controlled by the Holy Spirit. This is seen in [Galatians 5:16-26](#) (included on page 2). As you read this passage, how do you see the similarities to the character traits? What sins of the flesh might result from being tempted by the must nots? What fruit is related to the positive traits?

One of the central doctrines of our faith is the doctrine of God's Word, or Bibliology. The foundation of this doctrine is that the Bible is inspired by God, incapable of error, authoritative, and sufficient for all things pertaining to salvation and living a life pleasing to God. This is given to us in several passages including: 1 [Thessalonians 2:13](#); 2 [Timothy 3:15-17](#); [Hebrews 4:12](#); [Revelation 22:18-19](#). For this reason, Paul tells Titus that elders/pastors are to cling to the Scriptures so that they might proclaim and protect its trustworthy message.

- Do you believe in the authority and sufficiency of Scripture? Do you find yourself drifting towards or relying on other sources for how to live that aren't rooted in God's Word?
- In what ways can you proclaim and/or protect the trustworthy message? Are there areas of sound doctrine, as verse 9 mentions, that you are seeking to grow in?

⁷A church leader is a manager of God's household, so he must live a blameless life. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered; he must not be a heavy drinker, violent, or dishonest with money. ⁸Rather, he must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must love what is good. He must live wisely and be just. He must live a devout and disciplined life. ⁹He must have a strong belief in the trustworthy message he was taught; then he will be able to encourage others with wholesome teaching and show those who oppose it where they are wrong.

Titus 1:7-9 NLT

¹⁶So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. ¹⁸But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses. ¹⁹When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. ²²But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

Galatians 5:16-26 NLT