

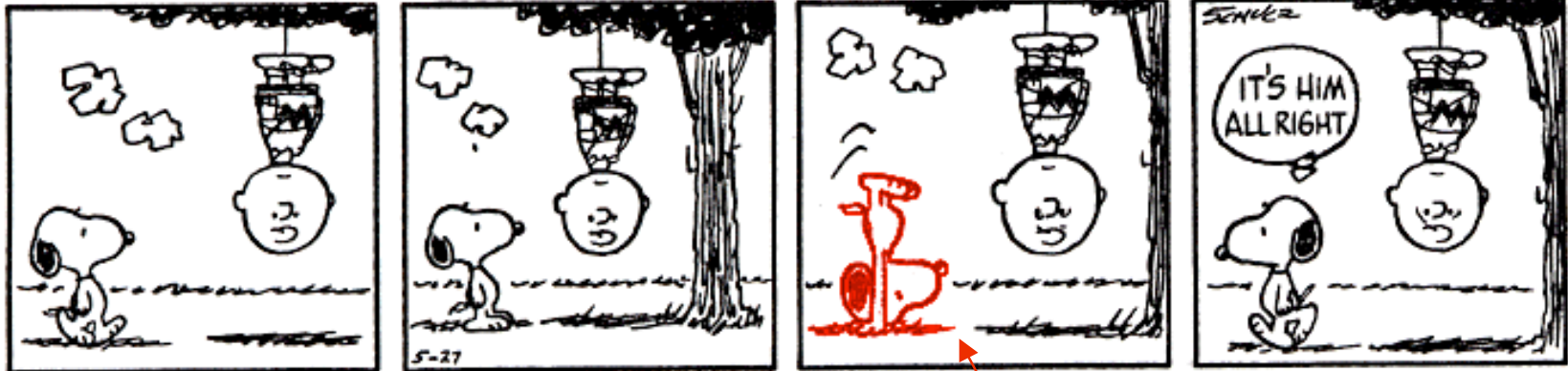
# Marks of Spiritual Maturity

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Titus 1:5-9

# Recognizing an elder . . .

**PEANUTS**



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Requires an unusual perspective!

# According To God's Perspective

## 1 Tim 3 Titus 1

## Meaning

- v. 2 - "one who cannot be validly accused"
- v. 2 v. 6 "completely devoted to his wife"
- v. 2 - "avoids extremes and excesses"
- v. 2 V. 8 "wisely establishes priorities"
- v. 2 - "respected"
- v. 2 V. 8 "loves strangers"
- v. 2 - "skillful teacher"
- v. 3 v. 7 "not addicted to wine"
- v. 3 v. 7 "not given to physical violence"
- v. 3 - "forbearing"
- v. 3 - "not an arguer"
- v. 3 - "does not love money"
- v. 4 - "one who manages his household well"
- v. 4 - "children obey him with respect"
- v. 6 - "not a new believer"
- v. 7 - "good testimony to the outside world"

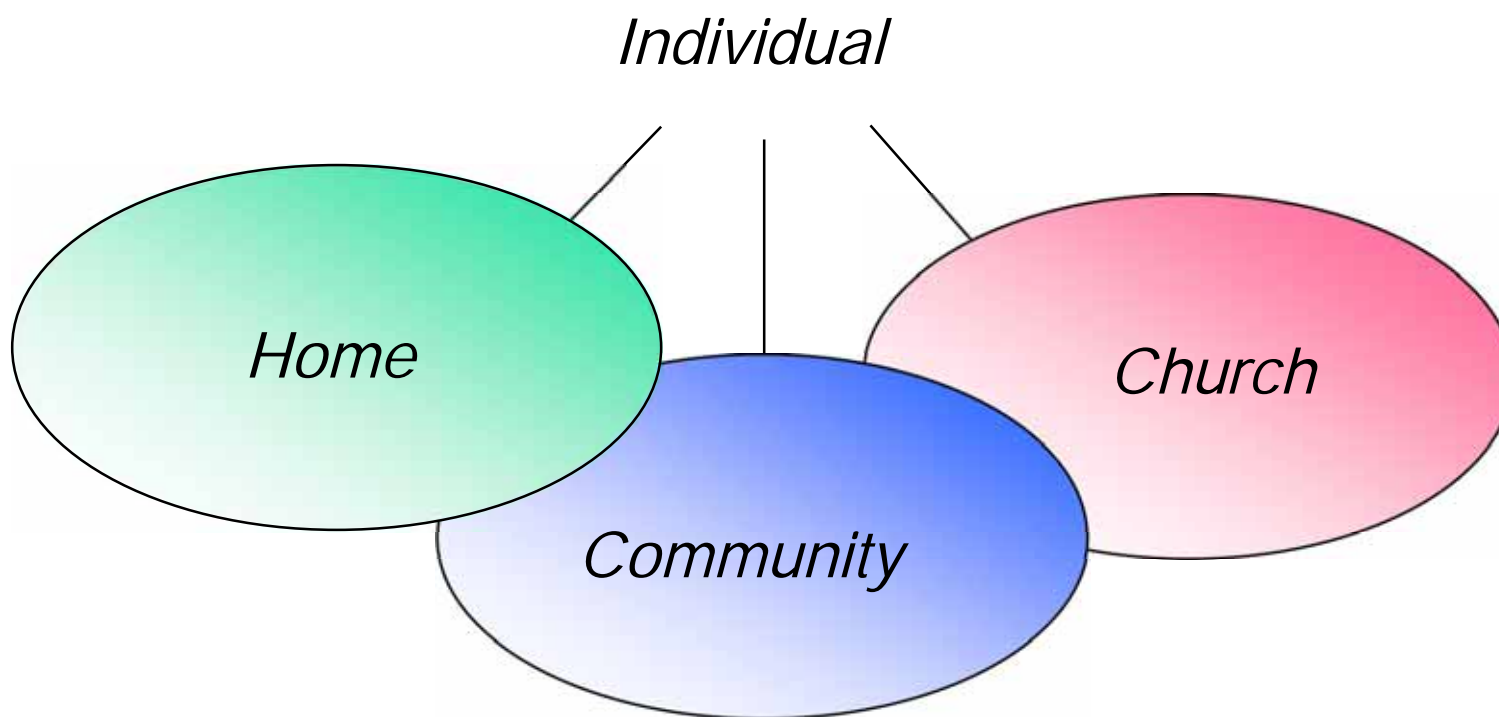
## 1 Tim 3 Titus 1

## Meaning

- v. 6 "cannot be validly called to account"
- v. 6 "children who are believers"
- v. 6 "children are not in rebellion"
- v. 7 "not self-serving"
- v. 7 "longsuffering"
- v. 7 "does not dishonestly seek gain"
- v. 8 "a lover of goodness"
- v. 8 "one who is a believer & consistently fair"
- v. 8 "one who is holy"
- v. 8 "restrained in mind & over fleshly desires"
- v. 9 "faithful to the Word"
- v. 9 "able to defend the truth."

**NOT: wealth, position, power, friendship, charisma or skills . . .**

# Qualifications – all areas





# Qualifications Are . . .

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- **A Peek** into a man's spiritual heart . . .
- **Safeguard** against wrong leadership . . .

**Spiritual Measure of God's Leader . . .**



# Include Traits & Abilities . . .

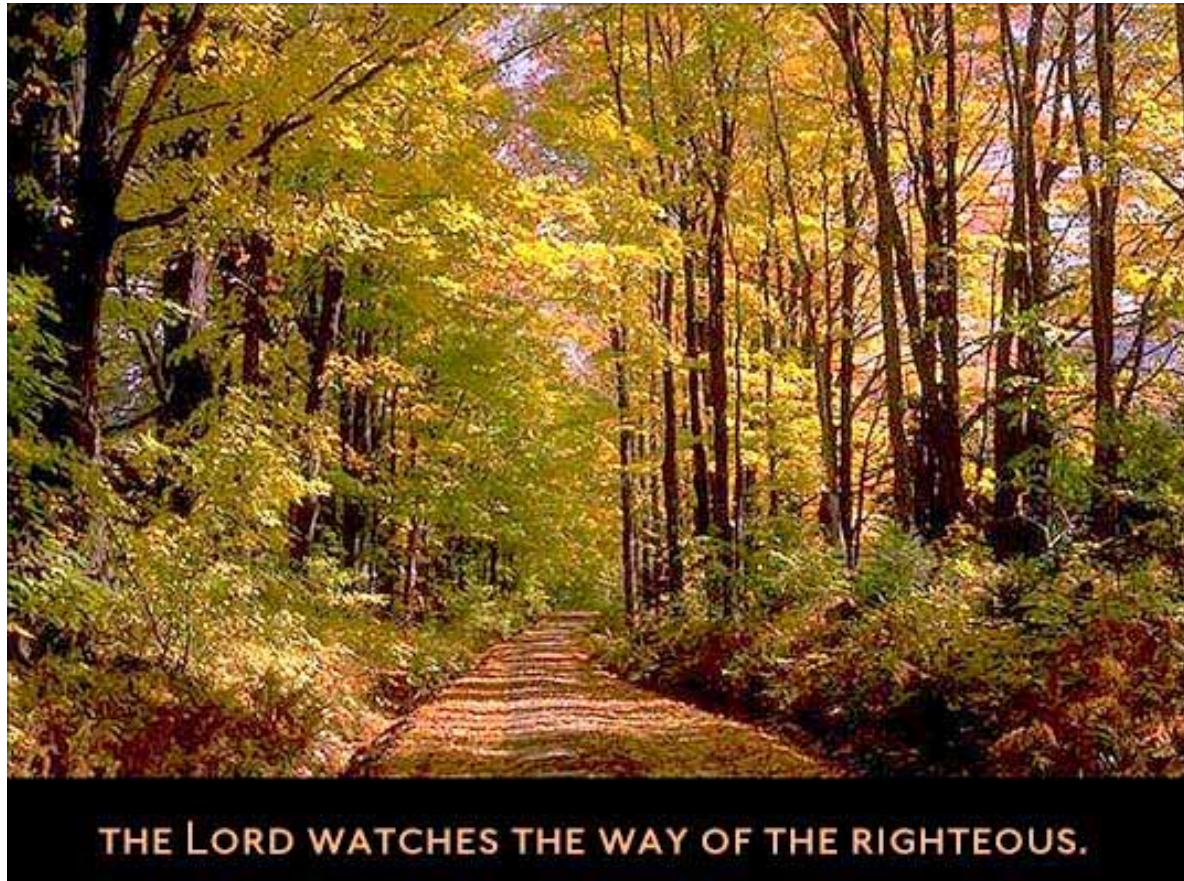
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- Character Traits
- Two Abilities
- **Patterns of Life** - not flawless perfection
- **Very High Standards**



# Lord Looks For Patterns of Life

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# “Above Reproach”

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ανεπιλημπτον = “one cannot be validly accused”

There are no **valid** damaging accusations against him . . .

- strong pattern of high moral conduct
- no valid criticism
- without major fault



# “Husband of one wife”

---

μιας γυναικος ανδρα = “one woman man”

## Major views:

- Not a bigamist
- Never divorced
- Completely devoted to his wife



# “Temperate”

---

νηφαλιον = “sober, wineless”

He avoids excesses and extremes:

- Root word means “no wine”
- But it had the sense of sober – that is, “he was **not out of control.**”



# “Prudent”

---

σωφρωνα = “well-disciplined, self-controlled”

He wisely establishes priorities . . .

“the idea of a correct way of reasoning,  
but also a sense of moderation, a  
moderation or reserve that is  
expressed in inner equilibrium.”

C. Spiq.

emphasis on  
his thinking



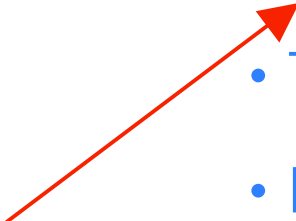
# “Respectable”

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ΚΟΣΜΙΟΝ = “well-behaved, modest, respectable”

He is respected . . .

emphasis on  
his conduct

- 
- The person is well-behaved or virtuous.
  - He is not a ball of confusion.
  - He is virtuous
  - His life is well ordered and honorable.



# “Hospitable”

---

φιλοξενον = “stranger love”

He loves strangers . . .

- This person shares his stuff
- He **loves strangers**
- He invites others into his home



# “Able to Teach ” – part 1

---

διδασκτικον = “skilled at teaching”

- Occurs in **only** two N.T. passages
  - 1 Tim. 3:2
  - 2 Tim. 2:24
- Definition rests heavily on Greek lexicons



# “Able to Teach ” – part 2

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διδασκτικον = “skilled at teaching”

“skillful in teaching”

- Philo (Congr. 35; Praem. Poen. 27)
- Arndt, W. F. A Greek-English Lexicon
- Calvin, John. 1 Timothy
- **Colin Brown**, DNTT
- Danker and Bauer’s Greek-Lexicon

“apt and skillful in teaching”

- Thayer’s Greek Lexicon



# “Able to Teach” – part 3

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one qualified to teach

- A. T. Robertson, Word Pictures

not merely given to

teaching, but . . . skilled in it

- Kenneth Wuest, 1 Timothy

both the willingness and

the skill and ability to teach.

- Heibert, First Timothy

highly skilled teacher

- John MacArthur, 1 Timothy

skilled teacher

- J. N. D. Kelly, The Pastoral Epistles



# “Able to Teach” – part 4

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As the principal business of a preacher of the gospel is to teach, or to communicate . . . the knowledge of the truth, the necessity of this qualification is obvious. He is one . . . who is qualified to impart to others on the doctrines . . . and he is industrious, and self-denying, and loves to study in order to know God . . .

**Albert Barnes, 1840 A.D.**



# “Able to Teach” – part 5

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This is something I emphasize, because I do not feel any man ought to be an elder in a church unless he can teach the Word of God. I used to say to my church officers that I wished it was possible to give a theological exam to each one of them to determine if he was qualified to be an officer.

J. Vernon Mc Gee



# “Able to Teach” – part 6

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... one that is able to instruct others, and who has a facility or aptness to it, neither an ignorant nor yet a lazy man.

Matthew Poole, 1700 A.D.



# “Holds Fast To The Word”

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αντεχομενον του κατα τ = “holds firmly, clings  
ην διδαχην πιστου to the faithful teaching”

## He is faithful to the truth . . .

- He believes all of it is the truth.
- He **holds to sound teaching** (2 Tim. 2:2)
- He is mindful of James 3:1-2.
- He is diligent (2 Tim. 2:15)



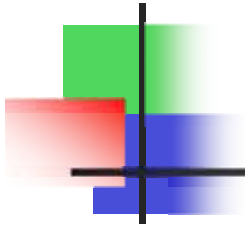
# “Able to exhort . . . refute”

---

παρακαλεω = “to call or exhort  
. . . αντιλεγω . . . speak against or contradict”

He is able to defend the Word of God . . .

- He has a **solid grasp of scripture**. He is not dependent on someone else.
- He can explain scripture at the “drop of the hat.”
- He can identify error.



# Part II – Personal Stuff



# “Not Pugnacious but . . .”

---

μη πληκτην = “not given to physical violence”

He is not a physical fighter . . .

- This man does not exhibit a pattern of physical violence.
- He does not have to have his own way
- It is contrasted to the next word . . .

Heart  
Issue





# "Gentle"

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ΕΠΙΕΚΗ = "forbearing, gentle, yields his rights"

## He is forbearing with others . . .

- Has the **sense of gentleness** with a sense of grace towards others.
- He does not fight for himself.
- He **yields his rights**.
- His focus is eternal.



# “Not Arrogant”

---

μη αυθαδη = “one who does not please himself”

He is not self-serving . . .

- He does not have a pattern of promoting himself.
- He encourages others at his own expense.



# “Uncontentious”

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αμαχον = “not argumentative, not verbal violence, peaceable”

He is not an arguer. . .

- Among the leadership this translates to **not being the king of many mountains.**
- This does not preclude the elder from taking a firm position on issues. He seeks unity of purpose and mind.
- He is not a debater.



# “Not Quick Tempered”

---

μη οργιλον = “not prone to anger”

He is longsuffering . . .

- This elder is **slow to anger**.
- He seeks “to bring others along.”
- He is justly angry over sin.



# “Free From Love of Money”

---

αφιλαργυρον = “not a lover of money”

He does not love money . . .

- He is not greedy.
- Money is not a major focus of his life.
- He **does not pursue money**



# “Not Fond of Sordid Gain”

---

μη αισχροκερδη = “not fond of sordid gain, shamelessly greedy for money, dishonest gain”

## He honestly earns his living . . .

- He is **honest in his work**
- He does not cheat his customers
- He does not cheat the local and federal governments.
- He does not use the church.

# “Manages His House Well”

οικου καλως προϊσταμενον = “house well managed”

Comes from

He **caringly-manages** his family. . .

- Προιστημι has the sense of leading, control, and caring for.
- Same word used in 1 Tim. 5:17
- More than just organization - has a shepherd’s heart for his family.



# “Children under control”

---

ΤΕΚΝΑ . . . ΕΝ ΥΠΟΤΑΓΗ = “children in submission”

His children obey him with respect . . .

- His children are in submission.
- His children respect him and do not despise or hate him.
- Titus 1:6 illustrates this principle . . .



# “Children are well behaved”

---

μη εν κατηγορια | ασωτιασ = not in accusation of  
αωνυποτακτα dissipation or rebellion.

His children are not in rebellion . . .

- Children usually reflect their parents
- **Rebellious children** *usually* imply that there is something seriously wrong in the home.



# “Children Who Believe”

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ΤΕΚΝΑ ΕΧΩΝ ΠΙΣΤΑ = “children have faith”

His children believe . . .

- His children hold to the faith.
- This implies his children share his faith and are born again.



# “Not a New Convert”

---

μη νεοφυτον = “not newly planted”

He is not a new believer . . .

- This eliminates the new Christian from leadership.
- Jesus did not start ministry until He was 30 years of age.
- “Elders” were typically someone of an older age.



# “Good Reputation Outside”

---

μαρτυριαν καλην = “testimony good . . . outside”  
... εξωθεν

He has a good testimony with those outside the church . . .

- The world should have a **high regard for this individual’s ethics and morals.**
- He should be known as a believer to the world.
- Does not end up being “two-persons.”



# “Devout”

---

οσιος = “holy, devout, dedicated”

## He lives a holy life . . .

- The elder lovingly seeks to please the Lord.
- He is committed to the Lord.
- His pattern of life is dedicated holy living.



# “Just”

---

δικαιον = “law-abiding, upright, honest, good”

## He “observes the right” . . .

- Personal -The elder obeys the laws of the land, and seeks to bring out the good in his family.
- Others -This elder seeks justice for all, including the widows, orphans, and poor.



# Elders – Should Be Followable

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God's Standard  
For Leaders

1 Tim. 3:1-7

Titus 1:5-9



Godly Pattern  
For All

Hebrews 13:7