



Life Guide/Closer Look

applying God's Word to life

God-Given Qualifications for Ministers of the Gospel July 14-16, 2018

(1 Timothy 3:1-7) Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. {2} Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, {3} not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. {4} He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. {5} (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) {6} He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. {7} He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

1. Name one quality you especially appreciate in a pastor.

2. Agree/disagree: Wanting to be a pastor is a good thing.

3. Define “above reproach.”

4. Use the following two categories to explain why God demands that pastors be above reproach:

A. Trust

B. Offense

5. Agree/disagree: Congregations can expect their pastors to be only relatively blameless.

6. Agree/disagree: A pastor who loses his temper at a church council meeting is not fit for the ministry.

7. Can/should a pastor be judged by the behavior of his children?

8. Which of the God-given qualifications in 1 Timothy 3 have to do with “ability” and which have to do with “character”? Why is that important to note?