

THE PASTORAL EPISTLES
I & II Timothy, Titus and Philemon
“God Speaks to His Church”

Character of an Elder—I Timothy 3:1-7
Palm Sunday—March 28, 2010

A. CONTEXT

1. **Paul writing to Timothy—danger of false teaching**
2. **Jesus is the Head of the Church. He is the perfect Shepherd/Pastor.**
3. **Organizing the Church**
 - a. **Two offices in the church are elders and deacons.**
 - b. **Elders:**

An elder is a spiritually mature man who leads and teaches the church. Such a man is also referred to as a pastor, overseer, presbyter, and shepherd. "Elder" refers to the spiritual maturity of the individual; "overseer" refer to his leadership responsibility; and "shepherd" and "pastor" refer to his responsibility to nurture the flock. Each term describes a different facet of the same office (cf. Acts 20:28; Titus 1:5; 1 Pet. 5:1-2).

B. TEXT

1. **DESIRE**
2. **QUALIFICATIONS—godly character**
 - a. **Fidelity in marriage** v. 2
 - b. **Character areas**
 - 1) **Above reproach**—not perfect but no charges laid against him, a person of integrity
 - 2) **Temperate** v. 2
 - 3) **Prudent** v. 2
 - 4) **Respectable** v. 2
 - 5) **Not addicted to wine** v. 3
 - 6) **Not pugnacious—a striker** v. 3
 - 7) **Gentle** v. 3
 - 8) **Uncontentious** v. 3
 - 9) **Free from the love of money** v. 3
 - c. **Family life—a manager of his home** vs. 4-5
 - d. **Spiritual maturity**
 - 1) **Not a new believer** v. 6
 - 2) **Not puffed up** v. 6
 - e. **Reputation in the community** v. 7
3. **DUTIES** v. 2
 - a. **Hospitable—one who loves the stranger**
 - b. **Teacher—Not just knowledge but ability to teach**
4. **THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE** vs. 6-7

C. APPLICATION