

Titus 1:5-9

Look at the raw material Titus is working with (Titus 1:12)

First, the terms 'elder' (old) and 'bishop' (overseers) are interchangeable.

Secondly, Titus was told to appoint elders (multiplicity) in every town.

Thirdly, Titus had to appoint men.

So, **who should we appoint as elders?** Paul provides three criteria. But it seems as though the word 'blameless' is a catch all term that summarises what we're after.

Paul specifies three spheres to be investigated: home, conduct and teaching

1. Appoint elders who are blameless in their home (6)

⁶An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.

2. Appoint elders who are blameless in their conduct (7-8)

⁷Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless – not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain.⁸ Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.

There are five vices to avoid

- 1) Not overbearing.
- 2) Not quick tempered.
- 3) Not given to drunkenness.
- 4) Not violent.
- 5) Not pursuing dishonest gain.

On the other hand, there are six virtues to pursue.

- 1) Elders need to be hospitable.
- 2) They need to love what's good.
- 3) They need to be self-controlled.
- 4) They need to be Upright.
- 5) They need to be Holy.
- 6) They need to be Disciplined.

3. Appoint elders who are blameless in their teaching (9)

⁹He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

And with that truth they'll do two things.

- First, they'll encourage others.
- Secondly, they'll refute those that oppose it.

Conclusion

1. Look in the mirror & address your weaknesses
2. Look in the congregation to develop men like this