

JULY 2, 2023

LIVING STONES

POLITY:

CHARACTER MATTERS

1 PETER 5:1-5

What should we look for in an elder or deacon?

1) Someone who is faithful, not flawless,

1 Corinthians 4:1–2 ... *"This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful."*

2) Someone who doesn't compromise character for success.

Matthew 23:27 ... *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness."*

3) Someone who is humble and selfless.

4) Someone who has a relationship with God worth following.

Philippians 3:8 ... *"Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ"*

QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

- Above reproach
- Respectable
- Sober-minded
- Self-Controlled
- Hospitable
- Able to teach sound doctrine
- Not violent, but gentle
- Not quarrelsome
- Not a recent convert
- Well thought of by outsiders
- Children are believers
- Not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination.
- Not arrogant
- Not quick tempered
- Hospitable
- Lover of good
- Upright, holy, and disciplined
- Hold firm to the word as taught
- Not domineering, but an example

Scripture References

- 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-5

BOTH

- Husband of one wife
- Not a Drunkard
- Not a lover of money
- Manage his household well

Scripture

References

- 1 Timothy 3:1-13
- Titus 1:5-9
- 1 Peter 5:1-5

DEACONS

- Dignified
- Not double tongued
- Hold the mystery of faith with a clear conscience
- Tested and found blameless

Women/wives

- Not slanderers
- Sober-minded
- Faithful in all things

Scripture References

- 1 Timothy 3:8-13