

LEADER QUALIFICATION SCRIPTURES

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13

1 If any of you aspires to be an overseer in the church; you have set your heart toward a noble ambition, for the word is true! 2 Yet an elder needs to be one who is without blame before others. He should be one whose heart is for his wife alone *and not another woman*. He should be recognized as one who is sensible, and well-behaved, and living a disciplined life. He should be a "spiritual shepherd" who has the gift of teaching, and is known for his hospitality. 3 He cannot be a drunkard, or someone who lashes out at others, or argumentative, or someone who simply craves more money, but instead, recognized by his gentleness. 4 His heart should be set on guiding his household with wisdom and dignity; bringing up his children to worship with devotion and purity. 5 For if he's unable to properly lead his own household well, how could he properly lead God's household? 6 He should not be a new disciple who would be vulnerable to living in the clouds of conceit and fall into pride, making him easy prey for Satan. 7 He should be respected by those who are unbelievers, having a beautiful testimony among them so that he will not fall into the traps of Satan and be disgraced.

8 And in the same way the deacons must be those who are pure and true to their word, not addicted to wine, or with greedy eyes on the contributions. 9 Instead, they must faithfully embrace the mysteries of faith while keeping a clean conscience. 10 And each of them must be found trustworthy according to these standards before they are given the responsibility to minister as servant-leaders without blame. 11 And the women also who serve the church should be dignified, faithful in all things, having their thoughts set on truth, and not known as those who gossip.

12 A deacon's heart must be toward his wife alone, leading his children and household with excellence. 13 For those who serve in this way will obtain an honorable reputation for themselves and a greater right to speak boldly in the faith that comes from Jesus Christ!

Titus 1:5-9

5 The reason I stationed you in Crete was so that you could set things in order and complete what was left unfinished, and *to raise up and* appoint *church* elders in every city, just as I had instructed you. 6 Each of them must be above reproach, devoted solely to his wife, whose children are believers and not rebellious or out of control. 7 The overseer, since he serves God's household, must be someone of blameless character and not be opinionated or short-tempered. He must not be a drunkard or violent or greedy. 8 Instead he should be one who is known for his hospitality and a lover of goodness. He should be recognized as one who is fair-minded, pure-hearted, and self-controlled. 9 He must have a firm grasp of the trustworthy message that he has been taught. This will enable him to both encourage others with healthy teachings and provide convincing answers to those who oppose his message.

1 Peter 5:1-5

1 Now, I encourage you as an elder, an eyewitness of the sufferings of Christ, and one who shares in the glory that is about to be unveiled. I urge my fellow elders among you 2 to be *compassionate* shepherds who *tenderly* care for God's flock and who feed them well, for you have the responsibility to guide, protect, and oversee. Consider it a joyous pleasure and not merely a religious duty. Lead from the heart under God's leadership - not as a way to gain finances dishonestly but as a way *to* eagerly and cheerfully *serve*. 3 Don't be controlling tyrants but lead others by your beautiful examples to the flock. 4 And when the Shepherd-King appears, you will win the victor's crown of glory that never fades away. 5 In the same way, the younger ones should willingly support the leadership of the elders. In every relationship, each of you must wrap around yourself the apron of a humble servant. Because: God resists you when you are proud but multiplies grace and favor when you are humble.