

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A PASTOR

Biblical Statements



A. Personal Qualifications:

1. "Self-controlled"— being able to control oneself – demonstrating maturity in difficult circumstances. Disciplined.
2. "Wise" — showing good judgment, common sense, wisdom.
3. "Not given to wine" — abstinence is the best practice/commitment.
4. "Not violent" or "quick tempered" — not having an uncontrolled temper or retaliatory manner.
5. "Patient" — being marked by a commitment to Gods timing in life and ministry.
6. "Not quarrelsome" — being a peacemaker. Seeks harmony through kindness and forbearance.
7. "Free from the love of money" — not greedy for personal gain.
8. "Not a novice" — having been saved long enough to develop spiritual maturity and wisdom.
9. "Not self-willed" — not trying to get one's way, looking out only for oneself.
10. "Not Covetous" — marked by contentment even when seeking appropriate material provision.
11. "Loving what is good" — being loyal to moral and ethical values.
12. "Just" — being fair and honest.
13. "Devout" — being devoted to God in personal fellowship and daily living.

B. Public Qualifications:

1. "Above reproach" — having no questionable conduct that would discredit his service
2. "Hospitable" — being receptive and open to people. . . especially in the context of the home
3. "Good reputation with those outside" — having a morally and ethically upright testimony before the unsaved.

C. Family Qualifications:

1. "Husband of one wife"—literally, being "a one-woman type of man," that is fully faithful and committed. Not divorced.
2. "Manages his own household well" — being a Godly leader of his family . . .
3. "Children under control with dignity" — having children generally marked by obedience (not the expectation of perfection) having been led by loving discipline.
4. "Children who believe, not accused of rebellion" — having children within the home who display faith (possibly "faithfulness"), who are not living recklessly, who are not marked by ongoing rebellion.

D. Ministry Qualifications:

1. "Able to teach" — having the ability to instruct (possibly "teachable").
2. "Shepherd the flock" - having a genuine caring concern for people.
3. "Serving as overseers" - willing and able to give administrative leadership (not as "lords" but "examples")
4. "Holding fast the Word of Truth" — having a strong and steadfast commitment to the truth of Scripture.
5. "Exhort with sound doctrine" — encouraging believers by means of correct doctrine.
6. "Refute those who oppose" — standing against false teachers and being willing to confront in love.