Healthy Churches

**Develop Godly Leaders**

Part 1: They Raise Godly Elders

(1 Timothy 3:1-7)

*1 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.*

*2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7**Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. (ESV)*

Elder = Who? Older man

Overseer = What? Oversee

Pastor = How? Like a shepherd

***Acts 20:17, 28***

*17Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him.*

*28Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.*

***1 Peter 5:1-2***

*1So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;*

***14 Character Traits for Church Overseers***

1. They are not flirtatious (“the husband of one wife”)
2. They are personally disciplined (“sober-minded”)
3. They are mentally and emotionally balanced (“self-controlled”)
4. They are not out of control (“respectable”)
5. They practice hospitality (“hospitable”)
6. They are able to teach the Bible (“able to teach”)
7. They are not addicted to chemicals (“not a drunkard”)
8. They control their temper (“not violent”)
9. They are considerate of others (“gentle”)

“It expresses that considerateness that looks humanely and reasonably at the facts of a case.”

**W. E. Vine**

1. They are peace makers (“not quarrelsome”)
2. They are not materialistic (“not a lover of money”)
3. They manage their homes well (“He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church?”)
4. They are not a young Christian (“He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil”)
5. They have a favorable testimony among unbelievers (“Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil”)