

Scriptural Qualifications for a Pastor.

In his letter to Titus (1:5-9) and to Timothy (3:1-7), St. Paul spoke of the qualifications of the elder (pastor) of the congregation.

An 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. Since 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. Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He 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. (Titus 1:6-9)

If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 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? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. (1 Timothy 3:1-7)

To summarize: The pastor must be: a believer, a good spouse and the parent of good and believing children. The pastor must not be overbearing, quick-tempered, given to excesses in drinking and/or dishonest in business and personal life. The pastor should be hospitable, good, upright, self controlled and disciplined. The pastor must also have a good grasp of the scriptures and the fundamentals of faith so that, through the pastor's teaching, preaching and ministration, the people of God are built up in their faith and those who oppose sound doctrine are soundly refuted.

Congregational Duty: The calling congregation's Congregational Council, or a Call Committee duly appointed by the calling congregation's Congregational Council, must interview and otherwise vet all candidates for call as pastor in order to discern whether a candidate meets the Scriptural qualifications set forth above. Throughout the call process, the Congregational Council, or Call Committee, may choose to seek the advice and counsel of the President of CALC and/or utilize CALC's available resources to assist them with the call process.