



# Glen Ellyn Bible Church

## THE SCRIPTURAL QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN ELDER

Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?). He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. (1 Timothy 3:1-7)

An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, 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)

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. (1 Peter 5:1-3)

From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. (Acts 20:17, 28-31)

**The Qualifications of an Elder are:**

- Demonstrating maturity in faith, through a history of service and a connection in fellowship as a member of GEBC.
- Demonstrating and verbalizing the desire to lead as an elder.
- Demonstrating moral integrity, in both public and private life.
- The husband of one wife and leading his home well.
- Temperate, self-controlled, not given to anger.
- Prudent, wise and submitted to God and others.
- Respected both inside and outside the church.
- Warm, hospitable, welcoming and relational.
- Free from all types of addictions.
- Understanding and applying Scripture to his own life, and able to encourage and challenge others with Scripture.
- Sensible, balanced, emotionally healthy and fair to others.
- Not motivated by selfish gain, popularity.
- Not intimidating, harsh, or impatient with others, but gentle and kind.
- Not contentious, picking fights or quarrelling with others.

**The Responsibilities of an Elder are:**

- To model Christ likeness in public and private life.
- To provide spiritual care for the congregation through prayer and visitation.
- To guard the doctrine of the church and teach God's Word to the congregation.
- To oversee and insure the orderliness of corporate worship.
- To champion the disciple-making mission of the church.
- To cultivate and cast the church's vision for disciple making.
- To encourage, care for, and support the ministry efforts of both paid staff and unpaid lay leadership.
- To oversee the church's budget.

**The Tenure of an Elder at GEBC**

- Each elder can serve up to four consecutive one-year terms.
- The term of office for elders begins on July 1 and terminates on June 30 of the following year.

**Considerations When Nominating**

- Spiritual Walk
- Overall Character
- Demonstrated Leadership Ability
- Commitment to/Involvement at GEBC
- Ability to work with staff
- Fit with current elders, as well as the vision and direction of GEBC
- Personal/Family Life