



Board Member Qualifications and Responsibilities

"Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his 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, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full 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. In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus." 1 Timothy 3:1-13 NIV

"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 1:7-9 NIV

"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 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. "Now I commit you to God and to

the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” Acts 20:28-32 NIV

“To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.” 1 Peter 5:1-4 NIV

In both historical and modern contexts, the role of a bishop (or overseer) holds significant importance within the Christian ecclesiastical hierarchy. The term bishop comes from the Greek word *episkopos*, meaning overseer or guardian. This article explores the qualifications, responsibilities, and spiritual significance of a bishop, through the lens of biblical teachings.

Qualifications

Blameless Character

One of the primary qualifications for a bishop is to be blameless. Titus 1:7-8 states, for a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate.

Similarly, 1 Timothy 3:2-3 echoes this sentiment: A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous.

These passages emphasize that a bishop should be morally upright, restrained, and self-disciplined. Such blameless character is essential for someone who acts as a steward of God and a shepherd to His flock.

Teaching Aptitude

The ability to teach is another crucial qualification. 1 Timothy 3:2 mentions that a bishop should be apt to teach. This indicates not just the possession of knowledge, but also the capability to communicate that knowledge effectively to others. Teaching is foundational to this role, as bishops are responsible for the spiritual growth and doctrinal accuracy of their congregations.

Responsibilities

Shepherding the Flock

1 Peter 2:25 states, for ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls. This metaphor underscores the shepherd-like role of a bishop, emphasizing guidance, care, and protection. Acts 20:28 further highlights this responsibility: Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

In essence, bishops are entrusted with the spiritual well-being of their congregations, directing them in the teachings of Christ and ensuring their care.

Stewardship and Governance

A bishop must also excel in stewardship and governance. Titus 1:7 refers to the bishop as “the steward of God,” a term that denotes management and responsibility over the household of God. This role involves overseeing church activities, managing resources, and ensuring the faithful execution of ministry tasks.

Leading by Example

1 Peter 5:3 instructs bishops to lead Neither as being lords over God's heritage but being examples to the flock. The role involves exhibiting humility and servant leadership, setting a Christ-like example for others to follow. This aligns with the broader biblical principle of servant leadership, wherein leaders lead by serving, as modeled by Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

The role of a bishop in Christian doctrine is rich with spiritual meaning and practical responsibilities. Grounded in biblical qualifications such as blameless character, teaching ability, and stewardship, bishops are entrusted with guiding the spiritual journey of believers, mirroring Christ's ultimate role as the shepherd of souls. This biblical foundation underscores the enduring significance of the episcopal office in fostering strong, vibrant Christian communities.

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” 1 Peter 2:9

“You are to be holy to me because I, the Lord, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own.” Leviticus 20:26

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12:2

"For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the Lord has chosen you to be his treasured possession." Deuteronomy 14:2

"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight." Ephesians 1:4

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart." Jeremiah 1:5

"For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life." 1 Thessalonians 4:7

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Colossians 3:12

"But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'" 1 Peter 1:15-16

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God." Romans 12:1

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

ATTESTATION

I hereby understand and agree to adhere to the Biblical qualifications and requirements as stated herein.

To live a godly life, to be pure, to be holy and set apart to the best of my ability.

I understand that if I cannot adhere to the standard and expectations required above that I will be renouncing my position on the board and it will be up to the discretion of the remaining board members whether I can apply to be reinstated later.