

A scenic autumn landscape featuring a pond in the foreground, surrounded by trees with vibrant orange, red, and yellow foliage. A white arrow with a black outline points to the right, positioned in the center of the image.

*Welcome To  
Sunday Night Bible Fellowship*

***“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28***

# ***“Qualifications for an Elder-Pastor-Overseer”***

## **Part II**

Titus 1:6-9

October 4, 2015

## **Titus 1:6-9**

6 namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.

7 For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,

8 but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,

9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

- **Jerusalem: Acts 15:22**, "Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church to choose men and to send them to Antioch."
- **Ephesus: Acts 20:17**, "And from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church."
- **All the cities of Crete: Titus 1:5**, "This is why I [Paul] left you in Crete, that you might amend what was defective, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you."
- **All the churches James wrote to when he said, "To the twelve tribes of the dispersion": James 5:14**, "Is any among you sick? Let him call the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord".
- **All the churches in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia that Peter wrote to 1 Peter 5:1**, "So 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 to be revealed."
- **The churches Paul founded on the first missionary journey: Acts 14:23**, "And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting, they committed them to the Lord in whom they believed."

# Titus 1:6-7

6 namely, if any man is above reproach, **the husband  
of one wife**

**εἴ τις ἔστιν ἀνέγκλητος,**  
*if any man be above reproach,*

**μιάς γυναικὸς ἀνὴρ,**  
*one wife husband*



**“a one-wife husband”** – a man who is devoted to the one woman who is his wife.

***What it is not referring to:***

1. One who is a polygamist. Virtually no polygamy in Greek and Roman society.
2. One who is divorced. Paul could have used language to say that, but he didn't.
3. One who is a remarried widower.

**1 Tim 5:9**

9 A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, having been the wife of one man,

**1 Tim 5:14**

14 Therefore, I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach;

4. One who is single.
  - Lord Jesus
  - Paul
  - Timothy
  - Titus

## ***What it is referring to:***

1. His wife is the one woman on the whole earth that he is to remain faithful and loyal to.
2. He will not enter into an immoral relationship with another woman.
3. Specific examples of steps he can take:
  - a. He does not take the church secretary or other church staff women to lunch.
  - b. He does not counsel women behind close doors.
  - c. He avoids potential compromising situations – both places and times.



“Of the fifteen basic qualifications for the office of elder in the local church (1 Timothy 3:1–7), being a one-woman man may be the one that runs most against the grain of our society. We’re relentlessly pushed in precisely the opposite direction. Television, movies, advertising, and just about everything else conditions the twenty-first-century male to approach women, as a consumer of many, instead of as a protector of one. The models teach our men to selfishly compromise and take, rather than to passionately cultivate and guard fidelity to one woman.”

-David Mathis

*Adjunct professor - Bethlehem College  
& Seminary*

## Titus 1:6-7

6 namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, **having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.**

7 For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward,

**τέκνα**

*children*

**ἔχων**

*having*

**πιστά,**

*trustworthy/faithful*

## ***3 reasons why “pista” should be translated***

***“trustworthy/faithful”:***

1. Paul uses the word multiple times meaning “trustworthy/faithful”.

## **Eph 6:21**

21 But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you.

## **Col 1:7**

7 just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,

## **Col 4:7**

7 As to all my affairs, Tychicus, our beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information.

## **1 Thess 5:24**

24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

## **2 Thess 3:3**

3 But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

## **1 Tim 1:15**

15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.

## **1 Tim 3:1**

1 It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.

## **1 Tim 4:9**

9 It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance.

## **2 Tim 2:11**

11 It is a trustworthy statement:

## **2 Tim 2:11**

13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

## **Titus 3:8**

8 This is a trustworthy statement;

## **Heb 3:5**

5 Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant,

## **Heb 10:23**

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

## **1 John 1:9**

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## **Rev 1:5**

5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

## ***3 reasons why “pista” should be translated***

### ***“trustworthy/faithful”:***

1. Paul uses the word multiple times meaning “trustworthy/faithful”.
2. 1 Tim 3:4-5 explains what Paul means in Titus 1:6.



# 1 Tim 3:4-5

- 4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity
- 5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),

## ***3 reasons why “pista” should be translated***

### ***“trustworthy/faithful”:***

1. Paul uses the word multiple times meaning “trustworthy/faithful”.
2. 1 Tim 3:4-6 explains what Paul means in Titus 1:6.
3. The end of verse 6 uses the words “accused of dissipation or rebellion” not “accused of unbelief or disbelief”.

**τέκνα**      **ἔχων**      **πιστά,**  
*children*      *having*      *trustworthy/faithful*

**μὴ**      **ἐν κατηγορίᾳ**      **ἄσωτίας**  
*not*      *accused of*      *riot/being out of control*

**ἢ**      **ἀνυπότακτα.**  
*or*      *rebellion*

**“dissipation”** – ασωτία – reckless abandon, out of control, debauchery (extreme indulgence in sensuality), riotous living, wild, excess, extravagant squandering.

**“rebellion”** – ανυποτασσω – not subject to rule or control, insubordinate, disorderly, unruly, refusing submission to authority, undisciplined, rebellious, disregarding restraint, unwilling to submit, headstrong.

## **Prov 28:7**

7 He who keeps the law is a discerning son,  
But he who is a companion of gluttons humiliates his father.

## **1 Peter 4:3-4**

3 For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.

4 In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you;

## **Eph 5:18**

18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

## **Deut 21:18-21**

18 "If any man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father or his mother, and when they chastise him, he will not even listen to them,

19 then his father and mother shall seize him, and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gateway of his hometown.

20 "They shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey us, he is a glutton and a drunkard.'

21 "Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death; so you shall remove the evil from your midst, and all Israel will hear of it and fear.

## **Titus 1:6-9**

6 namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.

7 For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward,

## ***Some things to consider:***

1. The Elder is not the Holy Spirit who convicts men women and children of sin and grants repentance.
2. If having children who are believers is the qualification, then all pastors would have unbelieving children when they are born and until they trust Christ as Savior, and would therefore be disqualified until they became believers.
3. The family is a microcosm of the church. Whether the church is out of control or under control will depend if the Elders have proven that they can manage their own children.
4. The Elder's family will make or break his ministry. Children who will not be subject to any control and specifically are unwilling to bow to parental authority, will reveal the inability of the Elder to train up his children and to govern them with authority. This suggests that the elder will lack the ability to train and govern the members of his local church.



## **Young's Literal Translation:**

“if any one is blameless, of one wife a husband,  
having children steadfast, not under accusation of  
riotous living or insubordinate”.