

Elder and Deacon Qualifications

Key:

	ESV Rendering	Elder reference	Deacon reference	Where else?	Greek word/s	Aspect	Qualification summarized
Elder (E)	How the ESV Bible renders the particular qualification	The Bible reference/s for the elder qualification	The Bible reference for the deacon qualification	Where else in the Greek Bible does this word appear? <u>Blank</u> means that the word does not show up elsewhere in the Greek New Testament.	A transliteration of the key Greek word/s.	An attempt to capture aspect of a person's life that this qualification is primarily addressing: motives, behavior, demeanor, family life, relating with others, skills, and public life.	The biblical qualification, carefully restated by me according to the context and lexical definition of the original word.
Deacon (D)							
Both (B)							

	ESV rendering	Elder reference	Deacon reference	Where else?	Greek word/s	Aspect	Qualification summarized
E	sobre-minded	1 Tim. 3.2		see 1 Tim. 3.11; Tit. 2.2	<i>nēphalios (nēphō = be sober)</i>	Behavior	He is restrained and moderate, particularly with regard to alcohol, but also other things that are commonly enticing (money, entertainment, etc.).
E	respectable	1 Tim. 3.2		1 Tim. 2.9	<i>kosmios</i>	Behavior	He orders his life and actions in a manner that is respected by many not just because it is wise and judicious, but also because it is modest and straightforward.
E	not a drunkard	1 Tim. 3.3; Tit. 1.7			<i>paroinos</i>	Behavior	He is not so enslaved to his appetites that he allows himself to become intoxicated.
E	not a lover of money	1 Tim. 3.3		Heb. 13.5	<i>aphilargyros</i>	Behavior	Believing that he lacks nothing from God, he is not overcome with love for any kind of earthly wealth (money, possessions, experiences), nor does he covet that of others.
B	greedy for gain	Tit. 1.7	1 Tim. 3.8		<i>aischrokerdēs</i>	Behavior	He is not so shamelessly fixated on wealth or status that he compromises God's method, or justifies his own method, to achieve any objective.

E	upright	Tit. 1.8		numerous	<i>dikaios</i>	Behavior	Through the Holy Spirit, he is generally innocent according to God's standards in Scripture, and he continues to seek to know and live according to these standards more and more.
E	disciplined	Tit. 1.8			<i>egkratēs</i>	Behavior	He has a robust sense of self-discipline so that he is able to exercise strong control over all of his appetites (food, drink, work, hobbies, etc.).
D	not addicted to much wine		1 Tim. 3.8	numerous	<i>prosechō + oinos</i>	Behavior	He is not so devoted to alcohol that his attention is always turned to it, including, but not limited to, intoxication.
E	self-controlled	1 Tim. 3.2; Tit. 1.8		Tit. 2.2; 2.5	<i>sōphrōn</i>	Demeanor	Since he has a reasonable, moderate, and sensible frame of mind, he is a prudent decision-maker who takes into account a wide variety of factors.
E	holy	Tit. 1.8		1 Tim. 2.8; reference to God (Ac. 2.27; 13.34, 35; 1 Tim. 2.8; Heb. 7.26; Rev. 15.4; 16.5)	<i>hosios</i>	Demeanor	He understands himself as thoroughly dependent upon God for everything, so he is especially careful to cultivate a reverent attitude before Him in thought, speech, and action.
E	hold firm to the trustworthy word	Tit. 1.9		Mt. 6.24; Lk. 16.13; 1 Thes. 5.14	<i>antechomai</i>	Demeanor	He not only clings to the Bible in his study and contemplation of it, he is also singularly devoted to it in his daily life as his only authority for faith and duty.
D	hold the mystery of the faith with a good conscience		1 Tim. 3.9	numerous; see 1 Tim. 3.13 and 3.11	<i>echō + mystērion + katharos + syneidēsis</i>	Demeanor	He lives his faith with a sincere and relaxed calmness that can only be the result of an internal certainty that he is guiltless in Christ.
E	not be a recent convert	1 Tim. 3.6			<i>neophytos</i>	Demeanor	He has been a Christian for a long enough period of time that it is clear that his attitudes and behaviors will be with him longterm, not just sporadic faithfulness.
B	above reproach {blameless}	Tit. 1.6, 7	1 Tim. 3.10	1 Cor. 1.8; Col. 1.22	<i>anegklētos</i>	Demeanor	He is guiltless and free from accusation because of the quality of his relationship with God, always measuring his actions according to what is pleasing to God.
B	husband of one wife	1 Tim. 3.2; Tit. 1.6	1 Tim. 3.12	numerous	<i>anēr + gynē</i>	Family	If he is married, he is unmistakably faithful to his wife both publicly and privately, in his thoughts and with his eyes; his is genuinely a one-woman man.

E	children are believers	Tit. 1.6		numerous	<i>pistos</i>	Family	His children are not just believers, but faithfully pursuing and growing in their faith. This applies especially to those children in the home and church, but children away should not be disregarded.
E	children ... not open to charge of debauchery	Tit. 1.6		Eph. 5.18; 1 Pet. 4.4	<i>asōtia</i>	Family	His children, particularly those in the home and the church, are not reckless squanderers of their money, energy, or time.
E	children ... not open to charge of insubordination	Tit. 1.6		1 Tim. 1.9; Heb. 2.8	<i>anypotaktos</i>	Family	His children, particularly those in the home and the church, are not flamboyantly independent and, therefore, difficult to control.
B	manage his own household well	1 Tim. 3.4, 5	1 Tim. 3.12	Rom. 12.8; 1 Thes. 5.12; 1 Tim. 5.17; Tit. 3.8, 14 (over self)	<i>proistamai + kalōs</i>	Family	He exercises a rule over his home, providing guidance and direction, in a manner that is according to God's word and not only beautiful and pleasing to God, but also to those outside his home.
E	with all dignity keeping his children submissive	1 Tim. 3.4		Dignity (see 1 Tim. 3.8, 11; 1 Tim. 2.2; Tit. 2.7); submission (2 Cor. 9.13; Gal. 2.5; 1 Tim. 2.11)	<i>semnotēs; hypotagē</i>	Family	In a manner that his children and others find respectable and dignified, he keeps his children submissive and obedient to his rule, guidance, and direction.
D	wives ... must be ... not slanderers		1 Tim. 3.11	numerous	<i>diabolos</i>	Family	The wife of a deacon must not have a 'devilish' attitude, adversarially opposing others or promoting divisiveness and disunity among others.
D	wives ... must be ... sober-minded		1 Tim. 3.11	Tit. 2.2; see 1 Tim. 3.2	<i>nēphalios (nēphō = be sober)</i>	Family	The wife of a deacon must be restrained and moderate, particularly with regards to alcohol and other things that are commonly enticing to many (money, entertainment, etc.).
D	wives ... must be ... faithful in all things		1 Tim. 3.11	numerous; see 1 Tim. 3.9	<i>pistos</i>	Family	The wife of a deacon must be dutifully engaged in seeking ways to connect Christian faithfulness to every issue of life, particularly as it applies to her home.
E	aspires	1 Tim. 3.1		1 Tim. 6.10; Heb. 11.16	<i>oregō</i>	Motives	He strains himself, reaches out, yearning eagerly for an opportunity to do the work of an elder.
E	desires a noble task	1 Tim 3.1		numerous	<i>epithymēō + kalos + ergon</i>	Motives	He passionately desires this work, which he understands to be good and beautiful and even noble.
E	is God's steward	Tit. 1.7		numerous	<i>oikonomos</i>	Motives	He understands himself as a dutiful household administrator, with the authority of Jesus to be used for one purpose: to satisfy the will of Jesus for His church.

D	those who serve well gain a good standing		1 Tim. 3.13		<i>diakoneō + kalōs + bathmos</i>	Motives	As the goodness of his service increases according to God's word, he happily expects that his good status and respect in the church will also grow.
D	those who serve well gain ... great confidence in the faith		1 Tim. 3.13	numerous; see 1 Tim. 3.9, 11, and Tit. 1.6	<i>diakoneō + kalōs + parrēsia + pistis</i>	Motives	As the goodness of his service increases, he happily expects that, more and more, his confidence and courage in the faith will likewise increase.
E	above reproach	1 Tim. 3.2		1 Tim. 5.7; 6.14	<i>anepilēptos</i>	Public life	His ordinary manner of life is clear evidence that he is not open to blame from anyone; criticism and accusations will not likely indict a person like this.
E	hospitable	1 Tim. 3.2; Tit. 1.8		1 Pet. 4.9	<i>philoxenos</i>	Public life	He is a willing and accommodating friend to strangers and, by implication, to immediate members of his community as well.
E	well thought of by outsiders	1 Tim. 3.7			<i>kalos + martyria; exōthen</i>	Public life	People outside his home, including even those outside the church, whether they know him well or not, naturally offer a good testimony about his life and behavior.
D	dignified		1 Tim. 3.8	Phil. 4.8; Tit. 2.2; see 1 Tim. 3.11 and 1 Tim. 3.4	<i>semnos</i>	Public life	He is known to be a dignified, honorable man, even marked with nobility; people outside the church seem to naturally find him worthy of respect.
D	tested first		1 Tim. 3.10	numerous	<i>dokimazō</i>	Public life	His service in the church has already been witnessed and evaluated over a long period of time so that nobody in the church questions his worth to the body.
D	wives ... must be dignified		1 Tim. 3.11	Phil. 4.8; Tit. 2.2; see 1 Tim. 3.8 and 1 Tim. 3.4	<i>semnos</i>	Public life	The wife of a deacon is, like her husband, honorable and respected by those outside her home and church.
E	not violent	1 Tim. 3.3; Tit. 1.7			<i>plēktēs</i>	Relating	He does not have an aggressive attitude towards others and is never a bully or pugnacious, neither in the church nor in his other relationships.
E	gentle	1 Tim. 3.3		Phil. 4.5; Tit. 3.2; Jas. 3.17; 1 Pet. 2.18	<i>epieikēs</i>	Relating	His is gentle in his dealings with others, considerate and kind, and willing to yield and accommodate others for the sake of a happy relationship.
E	not quarrelsome	1 Tim. 3.3		Tit. 3.2	<i>amachos</i>	Relating	He is not on the prowl to find conflict and controversy wherever it may be but, instead, he diligently looks for peace, in a peaceful manner.

E	not puffed up with conceit	1 Tim. 3.6		1 Tim. 6.4; 2 Tim. 3.4	<i>typhoō</i>	Relating	He is careful to not overly esteem his own skills and abilities and, therefore, become a fool in the eyes of others.
E	not arrogant	Tit. 1.7		2 Pet. 2.10	<i>authadēs</i>	Relating	Since he does not consider himself more significant or more meaningful than others, he is not arrogant, or overbearing, or stubbornly devoted to his own ideas.
E	not quick-tempered	Tit. 1.7			<i>orgilos</i>	Relating	He is not prone to loose control of his anger, so he doesn't argue disrespectfully, and he doesn't angrily part ways with others.
E	lover of good	Tit. 1.8			<i>philagathos</i>	Relating	Simply put, he loves all that is good in God's eyes, and he emphasizes this in his thoughts and speech about people, the church, and the world.
D	not double-tongued		1 Tim. 3.8		<i>dilogos</i>	Relating	In his communication, he is deliberate to speak truthfully and equitably so that he is never perceived as being a hypocrite or two-faced.
E	able to teach	1 Tim. 3.2		2 Tim. 2.24	<i>didaktikos</i>	Skills	He is able to teach others, being skilled in a variety of instructional settings (large group, small group, one-on-one), even though he is inevitably better in some than in others.
E	instruction in sound doctrine	Tit. 1.9		numerous	<i>parakaleō + hygiainō</i>	Skills	He is earnest and compelling as he urges others to believe in and submit to doctrine that is clearly taught in the Bible.
E	rebuke those who contradict it	Tit. 1.9		numerous	<i>elenchō</i>	Skills	He is neither afraid to nor unable to expose, rebuke, and correct doctrine that is not taught in the Bible.