

### **Recap of 4/8/18 (1 Timothy 3:4-7)**

1. The thirteenth qualification that Paul asserts for Elders has to do with home and family life. The home is a microcosm of the church and how a man leads there is a window into how effectively he would lead in the church. As one writer put it “is he a good leader in his own family.”
2. It is unclear in the passage whether Paul is talking about younger children who live at home or adult children. Also there is a question as to whether proper respect (or “with all dignity”) refers to the children’s response or to the Father’s manner of wielding his authority.
3. Speaking of this qualification, Alexander Strauch writes: “This means he must be a responsible Christian father, husband, and household manager. He must have a reputation for providing for his family, financially, emotionally, and spiritually....A well-managed family means that the children obey and submit to the father’s leadership. The way in which that relationship is manifested is especially important: it is to be ‘with all dignity.’ The father is not to be a spirit-crushing tyrant who gains submission by harsh punishment. Thus, a Christian father must control his children in an honorable, respectful, and dignified way. Of course there are no perfect, problem-free children in this world. Even the best Christian fathers and mothers have child-rearing problems, but these parents resolve the problems and are involved with their children in responsible, caring ways. They guide their children through the storms of life.”
4. Gene Getz adds: “Paul was not speaking of a man who has a perfect family. As there is no perfect church, there is no perfect family. There is no perfect husband or father, just there is no perfect wife or mother, and there certainly is no perfect child. All Christians have problems in their family lives. As long as we are in this world, we will be victims of imperfection. Satan will see to that. We should certainly strive to have a family that reflects the life of Jesus Christ.”
5. The final two requirements are “not a recent convert,” and someone who has a good testimony with those outside the church. That is, someone who is “mature and humble,” “someone who has been a believer long enough to exhibit spiritual maturity and wisdom.” “Someone admired by outsiders.” Pride may become an issue if someone is tapped too early for leadership, the devil’s sin; or may fall into disgrace, the devil’s trap.