

Life in Community
An Ordered Community: The Place of Elders
1 Timothy 3:1-7

- I. A Good Work – The Work of the Elder (1)
 - A. Though a hard labor, this is a good work
 - B. It should not be done under compulsion, but with love, grace, gifting/blessing in mind, for the benefit of the community
- II. The Importance of Character (2-7)
 - A. Everything listed has to do with character
 - B. Three categories of character quality: observable personal life, home-life, spiritual experience
 - C. Observable, personal life
 - 1. Above reproach – without any meaningful accusation against moral character
 - 2. Temperate – sober/sober-minded; restrained
 - 3. Prudent – self-controlled
 - 4. Respectable – modest and well-ordered
 - 5. Hospitable – “loving strangers”
 - 6. Not addicted to wine – not a drunkard; not one given to the over-consumption of alcohol.
 - 7. Not pugnacious – not a bully
 - 8. Gentle – forbearing
 - 9. Peaceable – not one seeking to engage in unnecessary/excessive conflict
 - 10. Free from the love of money – not greedy
 - D. Home-Life

- 1. Husband of one wife – “one woman man”
 - a. Issue of polygamy
 - b. Issue of divorce
 - c. Issue of widower
- 2. Manages household well – leads those under his care to a right course of action/way of living
- E. Spiritual Experience
 - 1. Not a New Convert (Why?)
 - a. To avoid pride
 - b. To avoid the condemnation/spiritual blindness that comes with pride
 - 2. Good reputation with those outside
 - a. “Reputation” – same word as witness/testimony
 - b. A good word before non-believers
- III. The Key Part of the Work (2)
 - A. Teaching – as found in the picture of the OT and other NT passages
 - B. Skillful at it