

SPOUSAL REFERENCE

Your husband was given this reference as he is participating in a process of being considered for eldership here at _____. Please complete this reference on your husband and then mail it directly to the church office, "ATTENTION BOARD OF ELDERS."

In the New Testament, leaders were not evaluated by their abilities, talents or even spiritual gifts.

Twenty-three (23) biblical qualifications for spiritual leadership are listed in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1. These qualifications must be met for one to be considered an elder from the Bible's teaching. The qualifications are listed below.

- 1) above reproach
one whose life could not be charged with wrong doing.
- 2) the husband of one wife
a "one woman man," completely faithful to his wife.
- 3) temperate:
"sober in judgment, not hasty in thought or word or deed."
- 4) prudent:
"of sound mind"
- 5) respectable:
modest or good behavior, honorable
- 6) hospitable
one who loves strangers
- 7) able to teach
skilled in teaching and also teachable
Vines: "teaching that is the outcome of careful study and practical application in one's own life.
- 8) not addicted to wine
Literally: not standing by wine, not a drinker or addicted to its use
- 9) not pugnacious
Literally: not a striker
- 10) gentle
gracious, kindly, fair, able to see both sides, "a sweet reasonableness"
- 11) uncontentious
one who abstains from fighting or quarrels
- 12) free from the love of money
not a taker, but a giver-generous
- 13) manages his own household well
his children and wife are obedient and respectful, finances well ordered.

- 14) not a new convert
one who is mature in devotional life and conduct
- 15) good reputation with those outside the church
a good testimony or witness to the cause of Christ
- 16) having children who believe
have children who share their father's faith, not disobedient
- 17) not quick tempered
not ready to attack with word or force
- 18) love what is good
a supporter of men and deeds and things which accomplish good
- 19) self controlled
the inner strength to control indulgences
- 20) not a new convert
conforms to a code of right conduct and standards
- 21) devout
denoting personal piety, consistent with religious practices
- 22) holding fast the Word
understands the Word and acts in accordance with its teachings. Faithful to its revelations
- 23) able to exhort and refute those who contradict
able to discern error and expose it, and to encourage by sound teaching.

NOTE: The qualifications given by the Apostle Paul are clearly discernible by patterns in a person's life.

Unfortunately we have a tendency to be hasty in filling a position and look for obvious abilities when God has called for a different criteria, the basic and fundamental qualities of a man who is controlled by the Spirit of God, a man of God.

Please place a check beside any statement that represents your observations of your husband at this time.

My husband:

_____ is doing well in meeting these biblical qualifications.

_____ is not doing well in meeting these biblical qualifications

_____ at one time in the past he did not meet these qualifications, though now he does.

_____ I'd like one of the elders to contact my husband and I so we can talk together.

I am supportive of my husband moving towards the process of being presented to the church family for consideration as an elder.

Your signature _____ Today's date _____