



## “Who Should the True Christian Follow?” Part 2

1. What “above reproach” means in personality and character for an elder of Jesus Christ’s church (Titus 1:7-8)

2. What “above reproach” means in teaching and protecting God’s Word for an elder (Titus 1:9)

## Table Talk

- 1) What are five characteristics that must be absent in an elder? (Titus 1:7) How does the absence of these reveal a character that is above reproach? Offer suggestions on why Paul would list “not arrogant” at the top of the character list for elders. How do arrogance and personal kingdom building relate to one another?
- 2) What is the difference between anger and temper? Why must an elder not be quick-tempered? What might be some situations where a quick tempered elder would be devastating to the church? What is your view of the use of alcohol for the believer? Why should an elder or potential elder not use alcohol as a common means of human interaction? (Titus 1:7)
- 3) Is physical abuse a problem in the modern church? How can we become more aware of the dangers that some families are in because of physical violence? Why would an elder with any of these character flaws be tempted to overlook such flaws in others? What are some temptations to use the church as a means for financial gain? How can some of these temptations look more legitimate than others? Why should all of us be careful not to use the church as means of marketing our businesses? Why should the longing for “more” not be in any of our hearts?
- 4) What six characteristics must be present in an elder? (Titus 1:8) Define “hospitable.” How can we become more hospitable, especially to strangers? What can we do to cultivate the character of loving what is good? What is the difference between being “self-controlled” and “disciplined”? Why is such restraint in a spiritual leader a comfort to God’s people? What is the difference between being “upright” and being “holy”? How is having a refreshing holiness in leadership of a church a wholesome blessing for every man, woman, boy, and girl that attends the church?
- 5) What does “above reproach” mean in terms of teaching and protecting God’s Word? (Titus 1:9) How can we hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught? What purposes are fulfilled when elders hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught? Why is there both a positive and negative purpose there? How can a church stay balanced so that both the positive purpose (give instruction in sound doctrine) and the negative purpose (rebuken those who contradict the word) are fulfilled? Do you think that your church is balanced in these matters? How can elders stay balanced in them?