

# Critical Traits of an Elder

“A church without godly leaders is an endangered church. And a church that does not train leaders is an unfaithful church.” - Thabiti Anyabwile

Desired Character Traits and Gifts	You know he has it when . . .	
Spiritual Maturity	He is a Spirit-filled, mature believer who embodies the character traits and ministry priorities of 1 Tim 3:1–7 and Titus 1:5–9	See Also: 1 Timothy 4:11-16
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Above Reproach – No one suspects of wrongdoing and immorality. Demeanor &amp; behavior over time have garnered respect and admiration from others. Why Important? 1) Set an example. 2) Receive benefit of doubt (1 Tim. 5:19)</li> <li>• “Would any of your coworkers/family be surprised to hear that you are a leader in the church?”</li> </ul>	
Teaching Ability	He is theologically astute He is willing to continue learning He has the ability to explain the biblical text to others He has the ability to apply the biblical text to a wide variety of people and circumstances	See Also: Matthew 28:19 Titus 2:2-6; and Luke 11:1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Teaching (1 Tim 4:13), Private Teaching (Acts 20:20), Personal Teaching (1 Timothy 4:16)</li> <li>• “Ability to communicate and apply the truth of scripture with clarity, coherence, and fruitfulness.”</li> </ul>	
Leadership Skills	He aspires to lead the church as an elder He stands out as a godly role model He possesses a track record of ministry fruitfulness He is committed to being a team player He has the ability to cast a vision for the body and take decisive action to fulfill that vision He is willing to guide the body through persuasion, organization, and encouragement	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “It’s easier to put a man’s existing desire and commitment to work than to stir up an apparent lack of desire.” (p53)</li> <li>• Are you attentive to your home? Do you care for your children? It is important to lead home first.</li> </ul>	
Shepherding Heart	He protects the sheep from spiritual danger He shows compassion to the sheep and others He models a hopeful spirit and positive attitude for the sheep He disciples less spiritually mature sheep He offers wise biblical counsel to the sheep He lovingly confronts wayward sheep	See 1 Peter 5:1-4 & Hebrews 13:17
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What gives you great grief and concern? Paul demonstrates an amazing care for his flock. 2 Corinthians 11:28-29</li> <li>• Seek wisdom for the correct resource and response that the Lord offers us to use. 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15</li> </ul>	

Hospitable Spirit	<p>He intentionally meets new people, including visitors</p> <p>He is willing to open his home to church members and visitors</p> <p>He is willing to share meals with church members and visitors</p> <p>He is committed to sharing life together with the rest of the body</p>	See 1 Peter 4:9 & Romans 12:13
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expresses love and care. Enables evangelism, discipleship, and fellowship.</li> <li>• Do you know and greet people? Do you assist people in need? Do you open your home? Accept invitations?</li> </ul>	
Evangelistic Zeal	<p>He is committed to pray for lost people</p> <p>He is intentionality building relationships with lost people</p> <p>He is looks for opportunities to share the gospel with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers</p> <p>He is cultivating evangelism as a personal priority</p> <p>He is willing to pray for, financially support, and partner in evangelism and church planting among unreached peoples in North America and aboard</p>	2 Timothy 4:5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine to share the gospel now. Spend time with those that have the gift. Pray for God to reveal people in your life that he has allowed you to get to know.</li> <li>• Think clearly on what the gospel is...know the gospel...how would you summarize the gospel in one minute.</li> </ul>	