

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for July 31- August 1, 2004**

**"The Character of Church Elders"**

**1 Timothy 3:1-7**

**1. The position of church elders (3:1)**

- a. The Man
- b. The Ministry
- c. The Mission
- d. The Merit

**2. The prerequisites for church elders (3:2-7)**

These prerequisites are not exhaustive.

These prerequisites are not objective.

a. Doing the Word

1) Personal righteousness: "Temperate"

Temperate is a general term meaning "well-balanced"

- In our consumption: "Not addicted to wine"
- In our relations: "The husband of one wife"
- In our possessions: "Free from love of money"

2) Inter-personal righteousness: "Prudent"

Prudent is a general term meaning "thoughtful"

- A careful life: "Respectable"
- A graceful life: "Gentle"
- A merciful life: "Not pugnacious"
- A peaceful life: "Uncontentious"

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

### b. Doing the work

#### 1) Leading through teaching

Teaching is done in many ways.

#### 2) Leading through reaching

Hospitable refers to reaching people beyond our sphere of existing friendships.

#### 3) Leading through beseeching

If we cannot lead those closest to us, we cannot lead those further from us.

### c. Not doing wrong

#### 1) Avoiding arrogance (3:6)

#### 2) Avoiding accusation (3:7)

The church is not just an organism, it is an organization. Along with this opportunity of service comes the responsibility of service.