

Titus 1:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

Analysis

For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God—ἐπίσκοπος (episkopos, overseer/bishop) is synonymous with πρεσβύτερος (presbyteros, elder) in Titus 1:5-7 and Acts 20:17, 28. Biblical polity knows two offices: elders/overseers and deacons. οἰκονόμος θεοῦ (oikonomos theou, God's steward) stresses accountability; elders manage the Master's household and will give account (Hebrews 13:17).

Five negative qualifications follow: **not selfwilled** (μὴ αὐθάδη, mē authadē—arrogant, self-pleasing), **not soon angry** (μὴ ὀργίλον, mē orgilon—quick-tempered), **not given to wine** (μὴ πάροινον, mē paroinon—addicted to wine), **no striker** (μὴ πλῆκτην, mē plēktēn—physically violent), **not given to filthy lucre** (μὴ αἰσχροκερδῆ, mē aischrokerdē—greedy for dishonest gain). These vices destroy trust and disqualify from leadership.

Historical Context

Ancient Crete's cultural context included honor-shame dynamics, wine's central role in social life, and widespread financial corruption. Christian leaders had to transcend these cultural patterns. The specification against drunkenness and violence suggests these were particular temptations in Cretan culture (cf. 1:12's "slow bellies").

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Do you serve as a faithful steward aware of ultimate accountability to God, or do you treat ministry as personal kingdom-building?
2. Which of these five vices—arrogance, anger, alcohol abuse, violence, or greed—represents your greatest temptation?
3. How does your church screen potential leaders for these character qualities versus mere giftedness or popularity?

Interlinear Text

δεῖ	γὰρ	τὸν	ἐπίσκοπον	ἀνέγκλητον	εἶναι	ὡς	θεοῦ
must	For		a bishop	blameless	be	as	of God
G1163	G1063	G3588	G1985	G410	G1511	G5613	G2316
οἰκονόμον	μὴ	αὐθάδη	μὴ	ὀργίλον	μὴ	πάροιον	μὴ
the steward	no	selfwilled	no	soon angry	no	given to wine	no
G3623	G3361	G829	G3361	G3711	G3361	G3943	G3361
πλήκτην	μὴ	αἰσχροκερδῇ					
striker	no	given to filthy lucre					
G4131	G3361	G146					

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 2:10 (Parallel theme): But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

Ephesians 5:18 (Parallel theme): And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

1 Peter 5:2 (References God): Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

Luke 12:42 (Parallel theme): And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?

1 Peter 4:10 (References God): As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Isaiah 28:7 (Parallel theme): But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.

Proverbs 14:17 (Parallel theme): He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.

Proverbs 15:18 (Parallel theme): A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.

Ezekiel 44:21 (Parallel theme): Neither shall any priest drink wine, when they enter into the inner court.