


The Qualifications of the Counselor

- I. There are many biblical qualifications for those who serve the people of God as representative of the Lord and of church leadership (I Tim. 3:8-13; Acts 6:3).

A. Moral Qualifications


1. Not double-tongued (I Tim. 3:8)

This would imply that people who are appointed to work on an intimate level with the people of God are not known for gossip.




2. Not given to wine (I Tim. 3:8)

The servants of the house cannot be those that are dominated or under the control of anything but their relationship to the Lord.




3. Not greedy for money (1 Tim. 3:8)

It is critical that those who serve in this capacity are not covetous or interested in what they can get out of it for themselves.




4. Blameless (I Tim. 3:10)

Appointed counselors must be above reproach in all areas of life, especially those areas for which they will be offering counsel.




5. Proven (I Tim. 3:10)

Those given this position should already be living the life of a servant before they are entrusted with the responsibility of a servant.




6. Sober-minded (1 Tim. 3:11)

This means that those who serve in such a way are known for their sound mind and good judgment.




7. Not slanderous (I Tim. 3:11)

This term describes one “given to fault finding with the demeanor and conduct of others, and spreading innuendoes and criticism about them.”



8. Faithful in all things (1 Tim. 3:11)

Those who work closely with God's people should be known for the fact that when they are given a responsibility or an assignment they are always faithful to carry it out.



B. Domestic Qualification

1. Husband of one wife (I Tim. 3:12)

The laws of God are a priority for this individual who has undivided affections.


2. Ruling his own house well (I Tim. 3:12)

This means that the person must first be a good parent, doing a good job and leading a Christian lifestyle at home.

C. Spiritual Qualifications

1. Full of the Holy Ghost (Acts 6:3)

Natural ability is important but it plays a second role to the life that is motivated and empowered by the Holy Spirit.



2. Full of wisdom (Acts 6:3)


Individuals working as representatives of the leadership will need much wisdom and they must know how to behave wisely.

3. Reverent (I Tim. 3:8)

These people are to be such that they inspire the reverence, awe and respect of others.

4. Holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience (I Tim. 3:9).

This person must be spiritually right with God, so that along with immediate counsel they can birth long term loyalty and faith toward God.



II. There are many practical qualities that make a person better suited for the counseling ministry.

The Counselor:

A. Must be an example of the believer (I Tim 4:12).



This means being an example in the following areas:

- 1. In separation from sin.**
- 2. In love for righteousness.**
- 3. In desires to see God's purposes established corporately and individually.**
- 4. In compassion and concern for others.**

5. In the personal discipline of prayer and Bible study.



B. Must have the fruit of the Spirit operating in his or her life (Gal. 5:22-23).

1. Love

2. Joy

3. Peace

4. Patience

5. Gentleness



6. Goodness

7. Faith

8. Meekness

9. Self Control



C. Must be a lover of people.

1. People turn to those that they know.

2. People turn to those that they like.

3. People turn to those that they personally respect.

4. People turn to those who show willingness to spend time with people.

5. People turn to those who demonstrate competence (Mt. 7:28-29).

6. People turn to those who they perceive know God.

7. People turn to those whose lives are in order.



D. Must have true humility (Pro. 11:2-3).


1. Humility means that you do not counsel with an air of superiority.



2. Humility means that you know and can be honest with your personal limitations.


a. This means being aware of your own mental and physical state.

b. The means that you do not counsel in areas where you do not possess appropriate knowledge.



3. Humility means that you keep yourself impervious to reaction.

4. Humility means that you position yourself as a servant to those for whom you are ministering (1 Th. 2:1-8).



E. Must view God's word as the only infallible authority on which to build (Ps. 19:7; John 6:63).

1. To be a good counselor you must know the Bible (Col. 3:16).

2. To be a good counselor you must screen materials that you use as homework or recommended reading.

F. Must have a deep loyalty to and agreement with the local church and its leaders.

1. This includes a loyalty to the leadership team of the local church (Acts 20:30).

2. This includes a loyalty to the vision of the local church.



3. This includes a loyalty to the guidelines established for counseling in the local church.

4. This includes a loyalty to and an agreement with the importance of the local church in the life of every believer.

5. This includes functioning under the authority of the leadership of the local church in the work that you do.


G. Must have a basic understanding of authority and chain of command.

1. In the home (Recommend course titled *Family Issues*)


2. In the church (Recommend course titles *Local Church*)

3. In secular society (Recommend course titles *Life Management III*)

H. Must have an understanding of the laws of relationship.

- 1. Governed by time**
 - 2. Governed by words**
 - 3. Governed by actions**
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I. Must have a confidence in the biblical pattern and approach of confrontation as prescribed in Matthew 18:15-18.



J. Must be confident in and dependent upon the Holy Spirit as THE Counselor.

1. For enablement

2. For revelation and insight

3. For supernatural gifts

4. For personal comfort and encouragement

K. Must be available to people.

