

The Office of A Bishop

Scripture declares that anyone desiring the office of a bishop desires a good work or employment position (**1 Tim. 3:1**). However, this does not mean everyone desiring the office of a bishop is qualified to be a bishop.

According to **1 Tim. 3:2-7**:

² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; ³ Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; ⁴ One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; ⁵ (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) ⁶ Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷ Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Let's look at each requirement.

- *Blameless*

Someone blameless is one who has nothing which an adversary could seize upon with which to base a charge. In **1 Tim. 6:14** the word is translated as “unrebukable.” If we look at the true meaning of the word, “irreprehensible” would be a better translation.

- *Husband of one wife*

This does not mean someone who has been divorced may not be a Bishop. If we interpret **1 Tim. 3:2** according to the days in which it was penned, it was not uncommon for men to have more than one wife living in the home. However, divorces should only take place within three settings as mentioned in Scripture:

1. Divorced because spouse committed fornication. The definition of the Greek word translated as fornication is much more than adultery. It could include incest, pornography, or even idolatry. Anyone divorcing someone for this cause is free.
2. Divorce where an unbelieving spouse refuses to remain in the marriage (**1 Cor. 7:15**). In this scenario the Apostle Paul said the believer was not to be held in bondage because of the actions of the unbeliever.
3. Divorce prior to Salvation does not place one in bondage and does not prevent them from being called to Ministry, including the office of a Bishop. According to **Rom. 8:1** “*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus. . .*” The word “condemnation means no adverse sentence. Holding someone hostage to their