

When you read all these instructions you think, "Well where did Titus find them? Where did he get elders that came up to the level that elders are required to be?" And of course it brings us right back to recognition of the fundamental fact that we are displaced persons in a world of sin. We are not in a world of righteousness trying to carry out a perfect system which God has ordained. We are in a world of sin in which God has put us as His representatives to make an impact on this world and in the midst of disagreeable and difficult situations in opposition and hostility where even the men who are our strongest friends and support us most strongly, are apt to turn around and knife us in the back without ever realizing they're doing it. And when they drive the knife clear in up to the hilt, they say, "Oh excuse me. I didn't realize that was your back." We have to recognize that that's human nature and just smile and say "thank you" and go forward. It's the kind of a world we live in. And so he gives here the ideal for a bishop but we know that Titus had to find the men that came as near to the ideal as he could. And if he didn't find men who came up to the ideal - he certainly didn't because very few of them did - he got men who were as near to it as he could and if he found that all the men available were so far from them that it would be just a travesty to make them elders, then he would make no elders

(8.) And Timothy also was given the qualifications and they're very similar to those of Titus. Our present problem is not seeing what the qualifications are - under this head "C" at least - our present problem is knowing the type of organization that this man Titus came and Titus came and they appointed elders. And Timothy was given qualifications for elders but not only that, he went on and gave him the qualifications for deacons - I Timothy 3:1-13, "This is a true saying, if a man desireth the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work." In other words don't everybody just stand back and say, "Oh, no, no. I'm not worthy. I'll only do it if I'm forced to do it." We have two kinds of people - we have those who are always trying to push themselves ahead and get into all kinds of tasks and honors and responsibility that they're not half up to and we have those who stand back and are so very modest they simply won't admit they can possibly do anything. I was connected with a church once where the pastor's wife was asked to run the Summer Bible School and "Why, oh no - she wouldn't do that. She wasn't