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ELIGIBLE

When Moses and Aaron took a census of the families of the Kohathites, they were counting those who were **eligible** to serve in the tabernacle.

- **Numbers 4:37:** "These were they that were numbered of the families of the Kohathites, all that might do service in the tabernacle of the congregation, which Moses and Aaron did number according to the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses."

When Moses and Aaron took a census of the families of the Gershonites, they were counting those who were **eligible** to serve in the tabernacle.

- **Numbers 4:41:** "These are they that were numbered of the families of the sons of Gershon, of all that might do service in the tabernacle of the congregation, whom Moses and Aaron did number according to the commandment of the LORD."

Under the Mosaic Law, if a person killed someone accidentally and didn't hate him then it was an accidental death. In that case the person was **eligible** to flee to a city of refuge so that his life might be spared.

- **Deuteronomy 4:42:** "That the slayer might flee thither, which should kill his neighbour unawares, and hated him not in times past; and that fleeing unto one of these cities he might live:"

If a woman hadn't reached sexual maturity then she isn't **eligible** for marriage.

- **Song of Solomon 8:8-9:** "We have a little sister, and she hath no breasts: what shall we do for our sister in the day when she shall be spoken for? If she be a wall, we will build upon her a palace of silver: and if she be a door, we will inclose her with boards of cedar."

Although Paul was an apostle, he wasn't the replacement for Judas. That person had to be someone who was with Jesus for the entire duration of His earthly ministry. Since Paul missed *all* of it, he wasn't **eligible**.

- **Acts 1:21-23:** "Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias."

If a person's own house isn't in order then he's not **eligible** to hold a position of authority in the church.

- **1 Timothy 3:2, 4:** "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; ... One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;"

If a person has just become a Christian recently then he's not eligible to hold a position of authority in the church.

- **1 Timothy 3:2, 6:** "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; ... Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil."

It's completely unacceptable for church leaders to lead corrupt or sinful lives. If they fall into sin then they must be immediately removed from office, and are no longer **eligible** for it.

- **1 Timothy 3:10:** "And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless."

Whoever wants to be a deacon must first prove himself and demonstrate his character. Only then is he **eligible** for the office.

- **1 Timothy 3:10:** "And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless."

QUALIFIED, QUALIFY, QUALIFIES, QUALIFICATIONS

It seems that three years **qualifies** as "many days". (That would be a long time for a nation to go without rain.)

- **1 Kings 18:1:** "And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth."

After the Babylonian captivity, those who claimed to be priests but couldn't prove their lineage were considered to be polluted and therefore not **qualified** to serve as priests.

- **Ezra 2:62:** "These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood."

There are certain **qualifications** to dwell in God's holy hill. (You must be upright.)

- **Psalms 15:1-2:** "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart."

Only certain people are **qualified** to ascend to the hill of the Lord. (You must be upright.)

- **Psalms 24:3-4:** "Who shall ascend into the hill of the

LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully."

God gives His blessing to certain people who meet His **qualifications**. (You must be upright.)

- **Psalm 24:4-5:** "He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation."

Azariah, Mishael, Hananiah, and Daniel all met the **qualifications** to be one of Nebuchanezzar's servants. This meant they were handsome, had no physical flaws, were wise, were cunning, were filled with knowledge, and understood science. They were also the type of person who could serve in the palace.

- **Daniel 1:3-4, 6:** "And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes; Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans. ... Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:"

When the disciples looked for a replacement for Judas, there were multiple people who were **qualified** for the position.

- **Acts 1:21-23:** "Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias."

Paul didn't say that only the pastor was **qualified** to speak in church. Instead he said that if something was revealed to someone, then he should be allowed to speak while the first remained silent and gave him a turn.

- **1 Corinthians 14:30:** "If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace."

One of the requirements of being an apostle is that you must have seen the resurrected Christ. If you weren't an eyewitness to His resurrection then you weren't **qualified** to be an apostle.

- **1 Corinthians 15:5-7:** "And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles."

When the Corinthian church refused to take Paul seriously, he defended his **qualifications**.

- **2 Corinthians 11:16-18:** "I say again, Let no man think me a fool; if otherwise, yet as a fool receive me, that I may

boast myself a little. That which I speak, I speak it not after the Lord, but as it were foolishly, in this confidence of boasting. Seeing that many glory after the flesh, I will glory also."

Paul felt foolish for having to talk about himself and his **qualifications**. He didn't want to have to do that, but he felt it was necessary to get the Corinthian church to listen to his message.

- **2 Corinthians 11:17-18:** "That which I speak, I speak it not after the Lord, but as it were foolishly, in this confidence of boasting. Seeing that many glory after the flesh, I will glory also."
- **2 Corinthians 11:21:** "I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also."

Paul defended himself when he was under attack. He didn't remain silent when false apostles bragged about their **qualifications** and tried to convince the churches to listen to them. (Paul didn't want the Corinthian church to be led astray from the gospel by false apostles.)

- **2 Corinthians 11:21:** "I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also."

If a church leader isn't blameless then he's not **qualified** to hold church office and should be removed.

- **1 Timothy 3:2:** "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour,

given to hospitality, apt to teach;"

If a widow is pursuing the pleasures of this world then she doesn't **qualify** to be cared for by the church, no matter how destitute she may be.

- **1 Timothy 5:5-6:** "Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day. But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth."

Paul expected churches to take care of widows (provided they met the **qualifications**).

- **1 Timothy 5:3, 7:** "Honour widows that are widows indeed. ... And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless."

Paul thought it was wrong for churches to take care of widows that didn't meet the necessary **qualifications**. If they did then those churches weren't blameless.

- **1 Timothy 5:4-7:** "But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God. Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day. But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless."

In order for a widow to **qualify** for being supported by the

church, she must not be younger than 60 years old.

- **1 Timothy 5:9:** "Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man."

Divorced women don't **qualify** for being cared for by the church. (The phrase "the wife of one man" means she never divorced her husband for an unbiblical reason and then remarried.)

- **1 Timothy 5:9:** "Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man."

If a wife didn't live a godly life, or didn't take care of her children, or didn't lodge strangers, or didn't take care of the saints, or didn't relieve the afflicted, or didn't do good works, then when she's old and destitute she doesn't **qualify** for being cared for by the church. Her earlier actions disqualify her.

- **1 Timothy 5:3, 10:** "Honour widows that are widows indeed. ... Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work."

Paul didn't say that if no one met the **qualifications** to be a church leader then it was fine to relax them in the name of pragmatism. Instead God requires church leaders to be blameless and to meet His standard.

- **Titus 1:5-6:** "For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou

shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly."

Church leaders must know the Word of God. If they don't then they're not **qualified** to lead the church.

- **Titus 1:5, 9:** "For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: ... Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

Paul didn't believe he had to **qualify** his condemnation of heretics by saying they were good people. Instead he condemned them as liars and deceivers who were leading people to Hell.

- **Titus 1:10-13:** "For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are alway liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;"