

# Questions About Elders

# 1. Further discuss “the husband of one wife”

- “Does a scripturally divorced and remarried man meet the ‘husband of one wife qualification?’ [The concern: he actually has had two wives]
- “Expressed another way: he is not married to his first wife (# 1) but is actually married to his second wife (# 2). The requirement is to be married to number one.”

# 1. Further discuss “the husband of one wife”

- Marriage binds a man and a woman, Mt.19.
- Scriptural divorce: innocent party puts away unfaithful spouse...
  - loosing faithful spouse from this bond...
  - allowing faithful spouse to remarry...
  - binding him to another...
  - but NOT to the put away spouse.
- Mt.19:3-9
- Ro.7:2-3

## 2. Must all the elder's children be faithful?

- If not, how many must be faithful?
- Also, does an elder have to have *some* or *all* faithful children once they have left the house?
- “Faithful” – Tit.1:6
  - We see faithfulness in many (Bible study; obedience; dedication; zeal; truth...)

## 2. Must all the elder's children be faithful?

- Faithfulness differs in degrees. E.g.:
  - Lydia, Ac.16:15
  - Colosse, Col.1:2 – all at exact same level?
  - Col.4:7, Tychicus? 4:9, Onesimus?
  - 1 Tim.1:12, Paul?
  - Rv.2:13, Antipas?

## 2. Must all the elder's children be faithful?

- Faithfulness is not same as perfection
  - Elders, 1 Tim.5:19-25
    - Zeke (elder): five children; attend; sit in silence in assembly, nothing more...
    - Zack (not an elder): three godly, zealous children...but number 4 was deceived by false teacher (after leaving home)

## 2. Must all the elder's children be faithful?

- What about elders' children away from home?
  - Brain injury: elder's son not in right mind...
  - Disease / death
  - Several faithful children, but . . . one gives reason for concern...

## 2. Must all the elder's children be faithful?

- Qualifications require good judgment –
  - Ac.13:13 (Ac.15)
  - Elder's age: 21 . . . 50 . . . 75 . . . ?



## 2. Must all the elder's children be faithful?

- Biblical examples –
  - Gn.44:...10, blameless?
  - Mt.12:5, blameless?
  - Ph.3:6, Pharisee...?

### 3. Is one child enough?

- God commanded Noah to multiply (Gn.9:1); this assumes at least one child per parent, or minimum of two.
  - Law was spoken to Noah's family after Flood: to fill empty world. [Gn.6:14 to us?]
  - Gn.9 addresses married people; Noah's sons childless; if they remain this way... [10:32]
  - If this law applies to all people / all times, we must <sup>1</sup>marry; <sup>2</sup>have children.
  - Abraham / Sarah? Paul? 1 Co.7:28...38; 1 Co.9:5

## 4. Are there qualifications for elder's wife?

- Does 1 Tim.3:11 apply only to deacon's wife?
- What are the qualifications?
  - Applies to wives of elders and deacons. Strange if Paul gave qualifications for deacons' wives but not for elders' wives.
  - Translations: ESV, '*Their wives likewise must be*' [no 'their' or 'must be'; cf. NKJV].
  - NASV: women *must* likewise *be* dignified... [Original: women likewise. ASV: women in like manner] – doesn't specify whose wives

## 4. Are there qualifications for elder's wife?

- Wives likewise (*must be*): not suggestions (10)
  - Reverent: ESV: dignified; CSB: worthy of respect. 'Honorable, worthy, holy, above reproach' – BDAG.
  - Not slanderers: NASV: not malicious gossips. Title of the principal transcendent evil being the adversary / devil – BDAG.
  - Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke you! – Jd.9

## 4. Are there qualifications for elder's wife?

- Temperate: ESV: soberminded; CSB: self-controlled. 'Sober...level-headed' – BDAG. 'Behaving in a sober, restrained manner' – L-N
- Faithful in all things: 'faithful in every respect' – BDAG. 'Trustworthy, dependable' – L-N

## 5. What about the hospitality qualification?

- What is hospitality?
- The generous and gracious treatment of guests.
  - OT historical narratives illustrate hospitality in both positive / negative examples, Gn.18; 19

## 5. What about the hospitality qualification?

- 1) Include hospitality to strangers. (1 Co.10:27)
  - 2) Guests were welcomed, to rest... (Gn.18:4)
  - 3) Gave opportunity to wash feet (Gn.18:4; 19:2; 24:32)
  - 4) Provided food and drink (Gn.18:8)
  - 5) Opportunity to talk (Gn.18:8...9ff) Hb.13:2
  - 6) Provided security (Gn.19:8)
- NT: Mt.25:31-46, serious

## 5. What about the hospitality qualification?

- How can we be hospitable to others in the congregation?
  - Ro.12:10, 13
  - 2 Co.11:26-27
- Some invite Sunday visitors home
  - 1 Pt.4:8-9
  - Lk.10:38-42
- Beyond hospitality, Christians want to get with other Christians, their spiritual friends