

(Continued)

usually takes several years to recuperate from divorce. It would call for him to be remarried & that his wife be a Christian, as well as his children (if of age). The other qualifications need to be met as well as this one. He must demonstrate his love for Christ & His Church by his daily walk.

4) **The stated Scripture is saying that a man is to be a "One Woman Man"**. He is not to be single, but to have the experience of raising a family (I served as an elder at age 28, which was too young). This grants to him the supervisory experience needed in over-seeing a congregation. He is to have one wife at a time. His wife may die - does that mean he is to run to the church office & immediately resign? If his wife & he divorce, that is a "mark" which will take a long time to heal, thus his resignation is in order. When the stated qualification was written, polygamy was common (Yet God's plan was one man for one woman - Genesis 1:27; 2:20-24). God was attempting to say that he wanted his church workers to be normal & not as the polygamists or as the "Gays" of Sodom or of our society.

5) **I am not one for being too quick to put a man into the office of elder or deacon.** Many men have problems accepting a servant's heart & if given a position of authority before they are ready for it, it can cause great trouble for a congregation. When a man accepts the nomination for a deacon or elder, I am convinced that he should understand that he is accountable and has some responsibility to the congregation to fulfill this office in a serious manner or he should resign. Therefore, I promote a periodic confidence vote be taken to keep one on target.

Plainly, don't get short changed by dealing with the past. Do the work of God and be ready to meet Him. The Bible teaches that to avoid hell and gain heaven - one must:

1) Believe In Jesus As Savior (Acts 16:31) 2) Repent Of Sins (Acts 17:30) 3) Confess Christ Audibly (Acts 8:37) 4) Be Baptized In Water (Acts 2:38) 5) Live A Christian Life (Acts 14:22)

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