Protecting the Flock from Phonies

1st Timothy 3:2-7

(series #12)

Intro: the importance of character in spiritual leadership

I. The Over-arching Qualification: above reproach

A. Nothing in his character that is a handle

B. He must be seen as a genuinely godly man

II. The Specific Qualifications vv. 2-7

A. A one-woman man: loves his wife sacrificially
B. Temperate - stable, firm, not easily shaken
C. Sober-minded: understands the responsibility
D. Respectable: someone looked up to by others
E. Hospitable - he must enjoy ministry & people
F. Able to teach - an ability to communicate truth
G. Not a drunkard - he must have self-control
H. Not violent - doesn't resort to force
I. Gentle: not abrasive or unthoughtful
   - Matthew 12:18-20
J. Not quarrelsome: not argumentative
K. Not a lover of money - Titus 1:7; 1st Peter 5
L. One who shepherds his children (Isa. 1:2)
M. Not a recent convert who will become prideful
   - 2nd Corinthians 12:7
N. A good reputation with unbelievers (Lk 6:26)

Conclusion: the best of men are men at best, so pray!