

## SETTING CHURCH LEADERSHIP IN ORDER

### INTRODUCTION

The Brazilian public education system is a mess. Schools have created several levels of retrial for final exams, each time with a lower standard, in order to avoid failing students. As a result approval rates have increased, while the quality of education has decreased.

The lowering of standards has resulted in tragedy in Brazilian education. Unfortunately, we see the same reality in churches regarding the standards for church leadership, resulting in disastrous spiritual consequences.

In **Titus 1:5–9**, Paul presents 4 guidelines for the establishment of faithful leadership in the church.

1. The Plurality of Pastors (5)
2. The Family of the Pastors (6–7a)
3. The Character of the Pastors (7b–8)
4. The Teaching of the Pastors (9)

### 1) THE PLURALITY OF PASTORS (5)

“in every city” (singular) “elders” (plural) =

Benefits of a plurality of pastors

Combined wisdom, knowledge, experience, and skills  
 Safety in the multiplicity of counselors (Prov 11:14; 15:22)  
 Protection against a domineering posture (1 Pe 5:2–3; 3 John 9)

The importance of developing local leadership

### 2) THE FAMILY OF THE PASTORS (6–7A)

“above reproach” =

“husband of one wife” =

“having children who believe” or “having faithful children” =

“God’s steward” =

### **3) THE CHARACTER OF THE PASTORS (7B–8)**

Negative Character Qualities:

- “not self-willed” =
- “not quick-tempered” =
- “not addicted to wine” =
- “not pugnacious” =
- “not fond of sordid gain” =

Positive Character Qualities:

- “hospitable” =
- “loving of what is good” =
- “sensible” =
- “just” =
- “devout” =
- “self-controlled” =

### **4) THE TEACHING OF THE PASTORS (9)**

- “holding fast to the faithful word” =
- “in accordance with the teaching” =
- “able... to exhort in sound doctrine” =
- “able... to refute those who contradict” =

### **CONCLUSION**

Pastors should not ignore God’s standards by trying to remain in ministry when they understand they are no longer qualified.

Churches should not ignore God’s standards by allowing men to remain in ministry without being qualified, only because they may have charisma, communication skills, influence, good appearance, or high levels of education.