



## Study Guide: Living a Life “Above Reproach”

**Sermon Topic:** Christian Maturity and Spiritual Leadership

**Link:** <https://oregoncitychurch.org/podcasts/media/2026-01-25-above-reproach-the-qualifications-for-church-elders>

Scripture Focus	Speaker	Date
1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9	Steve Haney	1/25/26

### Introduction

This sermon focused on the biblical qualifications for elders, but the core message is that the character traits of a spiritual leader represent the highest ideal of Christian maturity—a standard all believers should strive for in their daily lives.

### Scripture Focus

Read these passages daily this week. Pay special attention to the character traits listed.

- **1 Timothy 3:1-7**
- **Titus 1:5-9**
- **Philippians 4:8** (for a general picture of commendable Christian conduct)

### Reflection & Discussion Questions

Use these questions for personal prayer and meditation, or as a starting point for a small group discussion.

#### 1. Above Reproach (Integrity)

- The central requirement is to be "above reproach." What does this phrase mean to you in practical, everyday terms?
- If someone observed your life, where might they see inconsistency between your faith and your actions? What is one specific area you can bring into closer alignment with God's Word this week?

## 2. The Home & Family

- Scripture emphasizes that a leader must manage his own household well. How does your spiritual leadership or character manifest in your home life, whether you live alone, with roommates, or with family?
- In what ways can you show more patience and gentle authority to those closest to you this week?

## 3. Self-Control and Temperament

- The qualifications include being temperate, self-controlled, not quick-tempered, and not a lover of money. Which of these areas do you find most challenging in your current life situation?
- What is your typical reaction when you feel angry or slighted? How can you replace that immediate reaction with a spirit of gentleness and self-control, as modeled by Christ?

## 4. Teaching and Hospitality

- A spiritual maturity standard includes being hospitable and able to teach. How have you practiced opening your heart and home to others recently?
- You don't need to be a pulpit preacher to be "able to teach." How can you use your words, actions, and daily conversations to gently share or model Christian truth with a family member, friend, or coworker this week?

## Weekly Practice Challenges

Here are three challenges to help you actively apply the sermon's principles throughout the week:

1. **Integrity Check (Above Reproach):** Identify a habit or behavior that you often keep hidden from others—something that might cause a thoughtful Christian to doubt your walk with God. Spend time in prayer confessing it and developing a plan to eliminate it this week.
2. **Hospitality in Action:** Reach out to one person this week (a neighbor, a new acquaintance at church, or a coworker) to intentionally share a moment of kindness, offer a helping hand, or invite them to spend time together, demonstrating Christian welcome and warmth.
3. **Patience Project (Self-Control):** Choose a relationship (e.g., spouse, child, coworker, or traffic while driving) that often tests your patience. Before interacting with that person or situation, pause and intentionally pray for God's help to respond with gentleness and love, fulfilling the call to be "not quick-tempered."