





# The Elders

WHO ARE AMONG YOU

# Elders in the Will of God

## The Pattern of Church Organization

- According to the pattern – **Hebrews 8:4-5**
- Christ's church – **Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 1:22-23 (4:7-12 – left “pastors”)**
- Localized organization – **Romans 16:16; Philippians 1:1; 1 Peter 5:4**
- Proper conduct in the church includes qualified men serving as elders and deacons – **1 Timothy 3**
- This the Lord's will we submit to – **Colossians 3:17**

# Elders in the Will of God

## The Possible Forms of Organization

- **Scripturally Organized** – A church with qualified elders according to God's pattern.
- **Scripturally Unorganized** – A church without elders due to a lack of qualified men according to God's pattern.
- **Unscripturally Organized** – A church with unqualified elders contrary to God's pattern.
- **Unscripturally Unorganized** – A church with men qualified to be elders according to God's pattern that refuses to appoint elders.



# Scriptural Titles

## Three Titles Used for the Same Office

- **1 Peter 5:1-4** – Elder (v. 1), Shepherd (v. 2), Overseers (v. 2).
- **Acts 20:17-38** – Elder (v. 17), Overseers (v. 28), Shepherd (v. 28).

# Scriptural Titles

## Elder

- *Presbyteros* (adj) – “the comparative degree of *presbus*, ‘an old man, an elder’” (VINE); “pert. to being relatively advanced in age, older, old” (BDAG)
  - “an official (cp. Lat. senator), elder, presbyter” (BDAG)
  - **1 Timothy 4:14** – “eldership” (noun) – *presbyterion* – “an administrative group concerned with the interests of a specific community” (BDAG)

# Scriptural Titles

## Elder

- The official use of “*elder*” refers to those who are “*bishops*” – **Titus 1:5, 7**
  - **1 Timothy 5:17** – they rule – *proistēmi* – “to preside rule,” (VINE); “to exercise a position of leadership” (BDAG)
- Such a position requires age – **cf. 1 Timothy 3:6** (“*not a novice*”); **1 Peter 5:4** (“*being examples*”)

# Scriptural Titles

## Bishop/Overseer

- *Episkopos* – “lit., an overseer” (*epi*, “over,” *skopeo*, “to look or watch”)” (VINE)
- “one who has the responsibility of safeguarding or seeing to it that someth. is done in the correct way, guardian” (BDAG) – **cf. 1 Peter 2:25** – Christ
  - “The term was taken over in Christian communities in ref. to one who served as overseer or supervisor, with special interest in guarding the apostolic tradition” (BDAG)

# Scriptural Titles

## Bishop/Overseer

- *Episkopos* – “lit., an overseer” (*epi*, “over,” *skopeo*, “to look or watch”)” (VINE)
- “a superintendent” (STRONG)
- “(1) an overseer (1A) a man charged with the duty of seeing that things to be done by others are done rightly, any curator, guardian or superintendent (1B) the superintendent, elder, or overseer of a Christian church” (THAYER)

# Scriptural Titles

## Bishop/Overseer

- Ruling authority, not abused for personal gain – **1 Peter 5:2-4** – “*serving as overseers*”
  - “*being lords over*” – *katakyrieuō* – “to lord against, i.e. control, subjugate” (STRONG); “of exercising dominion for one’s own advantage lord it over, rule over, domineer over” (ALGNT) (cf. **Acts 19:16; Matthew 20:25; Mark 10:42**) (EX: **3 John 9-10**)
- Their authority is real, and must be submitted to – **Hebrews 13:17**

# Scriptural Titles

## Bishop/Overseer

- Oversight to ensure:
  - Adherence to pattern – **2 Timothy 2:13**
  - Decency and Order – **1 Corinthians 14:40**
  - Edification – **1 Corinthians 14:26**
  - Faithfulness of members – **1 Thess. 5:12-14;**  
**2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15**

# Scriptural Titles

## Pastor/Shepherd

- *Poimēn* – “a shepherd (literally or figuratively)” (STRONG)
- “(1) a herdsman, esp. a shepherd; (2) metaph. (2A) the presiding officer, manager, director, of any assembly: so of Christ the Head of the church (2A1) of the overseers of the Christian assemblies” (THAYER)
- “(1) one who herds sheep; (2) one who serves as guardian or leader” (BDAG)

# Scriptural Titles

## Pastor/Shepherd

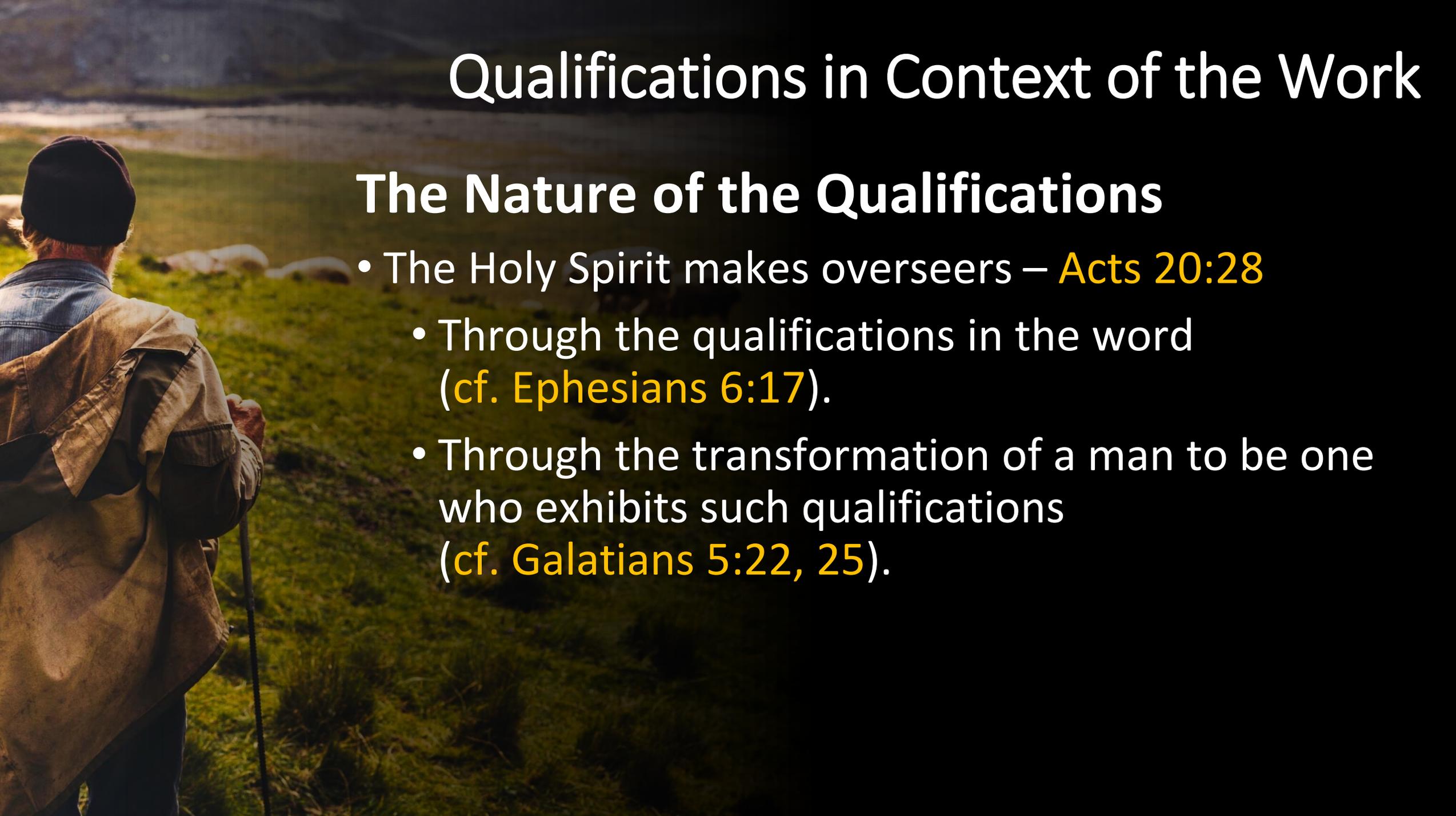
- “*Pastors*” given for edification – **Ephesians 4:11-14**
- To shepherd the church knowing false teachers will attempt to draw disciples away – **Acts 20:28-31**
- Are to “*exhort and convict those who contradict*” – **Titus 1:9-14**



# Qualifications in Context of the Work

## The Nature of the Qualifications

- **Qualification** – a quality or accomplishment that makes someone suitable for a particular job or activity. (New Oxford American Dictionary)
- **1 Timothy 3:2** – “A bishop then **MUST BE...**”
  - **Must** – *dei* – “(1) it is necessary, there is need of, it behooves, is right and proper; (1C) necessity in reference to what is required to attain some end” (THAYER)
  - **Be** – *einai* – “to exist” (STRONG) – Present, Active

A shepherd wearing a dark cap and a brown jacket is seen from behind, holding a staff and looking over a green field with sheep. The background shows a river and hills under a bright sky.

# Qualifications in Context of the Work

## The Nature of the Qualifications

- The Holy Spirit makes overseers – **Acts 20:28**
  - Through the qualifications in the word (**cf. Ephesians 6:17**).
  - Through the transformation of a man to be one who exhibits such qualifications (**cf. Galatians 5:22, 25**).

# Qualifications in Context of the Work

## The Nature of the Appointment of Qualified Men

- **Acts 14:23** – “appointed” – *cheirotoneō* – ““to stretch forth the hands” (*cheir*, “the hand,” *teino*, “to stretch”)” (VINE)
- “(1) to elect or choose someone for definite offices or tasks; (2) On the other hand, elders (πρεσβύτεροι) in Lycaonia and Pisidia were not chosen by the congregations, but it is said of Paul and Barnabas χειροτονήσαντες αὐτοῖς κατ’ ἐκκλησίαν πρεσβυτέρους Ac 14:23. Cp. Tit 1:9 v.l. and subscr.; 2 Ti subscr. This does not involve a choice by the group; here the word means appoint, install, w. the apostles as subj.” (BDAG)

# Qualifications in Context of the Work

## The Nature of the Appointment of Qualified Men

- **Acts 14:23** – “*appointed*” – *cheirotoneō* – ““to stretch forth the hands” (*cheir*, “the hand,” *teino*, “to stretch”)” (VINE)
- “Acts 14:23, RV, “had appointed,” i.e., by the recognition of those who had been manifesting themselves as gifted of God to discharge the functions of elders” (VINE)

# Qualifications in Context of the Work

## The Nature of the Appointment of Qualified Men

- **Acts 20:28** – “made” – *tithēmi* – “(5) to cause to undergo a change in experience/condition, make, consign; (5b) mid. w. a double acc. make someone someth.” (BDAG)
- **Titus 1:5** – “appoint” – *kathistēmi* – “(1) to set, place, put; (1B) to appoint one to administer an office” (THAYER).
  - “AS I commanded you” – *hōs* – “a comparative particle, marking the manner in which someth. Proceeds” (BDAG) (**vv. 6-9**)

# Qualifications in Context of the Work

## Qualifications – Character:

- Desire for the office
- Holy
- Just
- Gentle
- Of good behavior
- Hospitable
- A lover of what is good
- Temperate
- Self-controlled
- Not given to wine
- Not quick-tempered
- Not self-willed
- Sober-minded

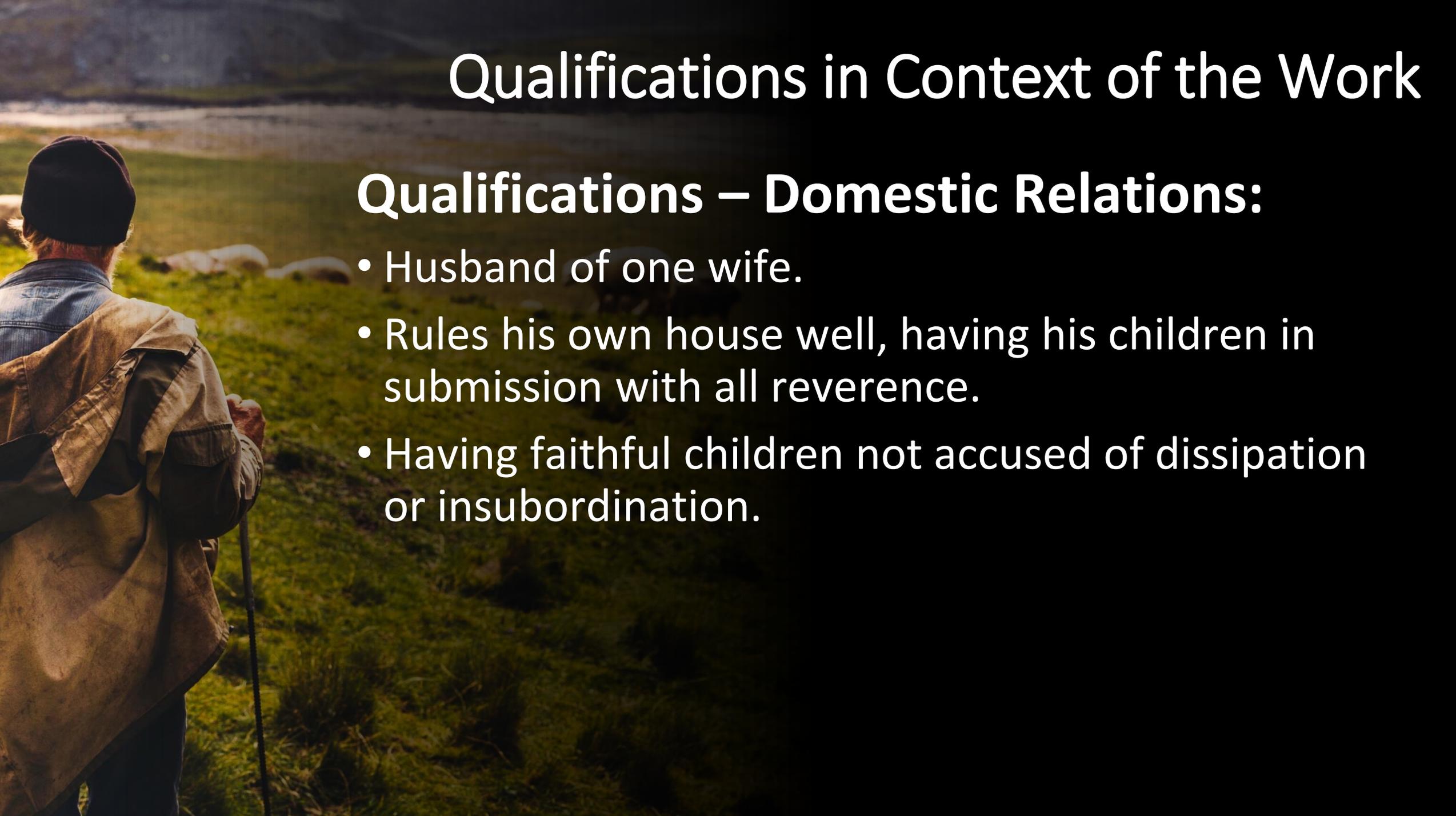


# Qualifications in Context of the Work

## Qualifications – Reputation:

- Blameless
- Blameless, as a steward
- A good testimony among those who are outside
- Not quarrelsome
- Not greedy for money
- Not covetous
- Not violent

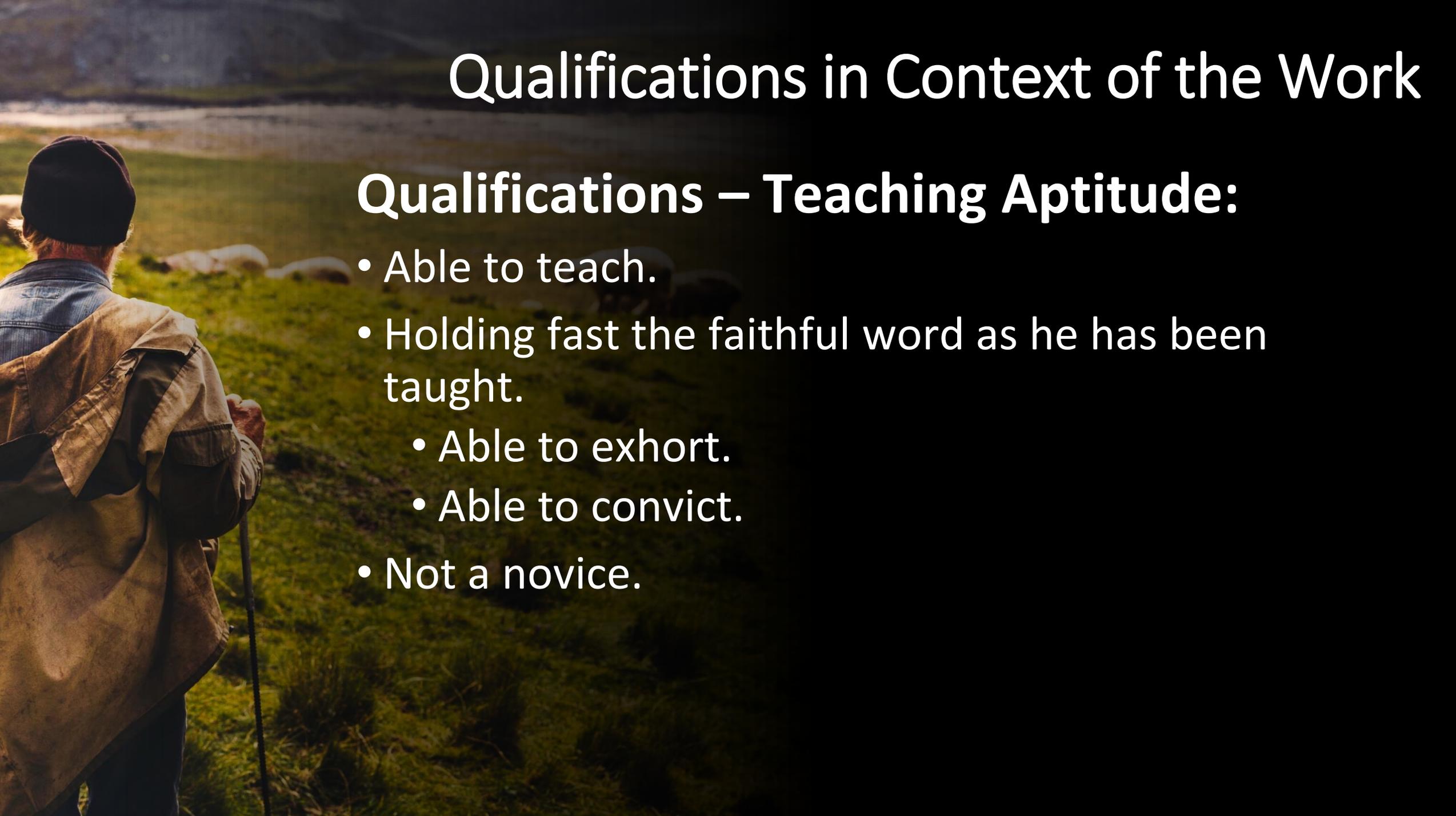


A shepherd wearing a dark cap and a light-colored jacket is seen from behind, holding a staff and looking over a green field with sheep. The background shows a hazy landscape under a bright sky.

# Qualifications in Context of the Work

## Qualifications – Domestic Relations:

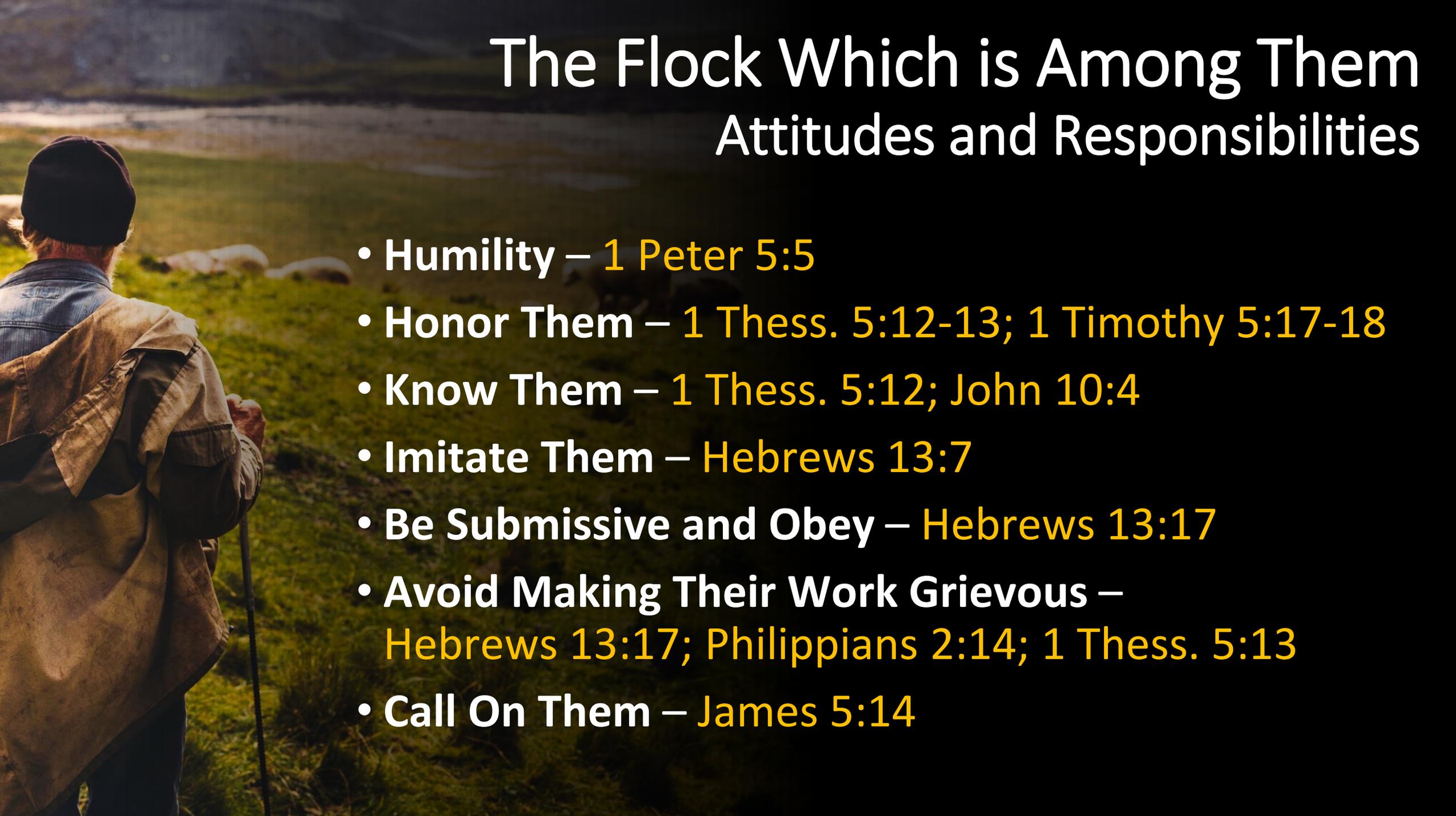
- Husband of one wife.
- Rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence.
- Having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.

A photograph of a shepherd from behind, wearing a dark cap and a denim jacket, with a large, worn, light-colored coat draped over his shoulders. He is holding a long wooden staff and looking out over a vast, green, hilly landscape. In the distance, several white sheep are grazing. The background shows a wide river or valley under a clear sky.

# Qualifications in Context of the Work

## Qualifications – Teaching Aptitude:

- Able to teach.
- Holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught.
  - Able to exhort.
  - Able to convict.
- Not a novice.

A shepherd wearing a dark cap and a denim jacket with a brown coat draped over his shoulders stands in a green field, looking towards a flock of sheep. The background shows a river and hills under a bright sky.

# The Flock Which is Among Them

## Attitudes and Responsibilities

- **Humility** – 1 Peter 5:5
- **Honor Them** – 1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Timothy 5:17-18
- **Know Them** – 1 Thess. 5:12; John 10:4
- **Imitate Them** – Hebrews 13:7
- **Be Submissive and Obey** – Hebrews 13:17
- **Avoid Making Their Work Grievous** – Hebrews 13:17; Philippians 2:14; 1 Thess. 5:13
- **Call On Them** – James 5:14



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WHO ARE AMONG YOU