

Summary – Divorce and Christian Leadership Discussion

From: M Bret Blackford (bret\_blackford@yahoo.com)  
To: mxelders@mcknightcrossings.org; jmcglawn@mcknightcrossings.org  
Date: Monday, May 12, 2025 at 02:26 PM CDT

Dear Brothers,

Following our discussion on Saturday, May 10, we concluded (by a vote of 6 in favor and 1 against) that a previous divorce does **not** automatically exclude a man from serving in church leadership, including the role of shepherd (elder).

While we affirm that marriage is a covenant and believe that any previous divorce should be evaluated carefully, we agreed that it does not disqualify a currently married man from being considered for the role of elder.

In reviewing the biblical qualifications for elders (Titus 1:6–9, 1 Timothy 3:1–7, and other passages), we agreed that the following represent the minimal qualifications for an elder:

- Married, with an exemplary relationship
- Has children (at least one; although some passages suggest two or more)
- A faithful Christian who models exemplary Christian character
- Widely accepted by the congregation as a godly man

Thank you for your thoughtful study, prayer, and discussion on this important matter.

In Him,  
--- Bret

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** M Bret Blackford <bret\_blackford@yahoo.com>  
**To:** MX MXElders <mxelders@mcknightcrossings.org>; Jeff McGlawn <jmcglawn@mcknightcrossings.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 08:00:37 PM CDT  
**Subject:** Elder Retreat Study Material

Guys,

A reminder to come prepared to discuss our two main topics for this weekend’s Elder Retreat; May 10 from 7:30am – 11:30am at the MX building. Please read the following ...

- **Gender, LGBTQ+, and the Church** (discussion lead by Dave Weiler)  
[For the Bible Tells Me So \(The Church, The Bible, and LGBTQ+ Inclusion\)](#) by Rev. Dr. Katie Hays
- **Divorce and Christian Leadership**
  - [MX website on prior study of eldership](#). Some divorce specific video towards the bottom
  - [The Meaning of “The Husband of One Wife” in 1 Timothy 3:2](#) by Andy Woods

These are important topics so please spend the time in study and prayer prior to our discussion.

----- Bret

