

TO THE CHURCH from RICHARD (Dick) MOORE 11/18/2020

As most of you know, I am no longer serving this church as an elder. After serving for about eighteen years, I did not want to let that go without sharing my thoughts with you.

I am no longer an elder in the church because: 1 Timothy 3:2 and Titus 1:6 both state, as one of several criteria, that an elder or bishop in the church is to be "the husband of one wife". Ouida, my 'one wife' of 64- years, has gone to claim her heavenly reward, which renders me unqualified to be an elder. I know there are rationalizations one could make to avoid that consequence, but when there is a "Thus sayeth the Lord," as there is in this situation, I don't believe it would be right for me to make an exception for myself.

I could argue that I had 'one' wife for 64 years and thereby proved I could manage my own household. But that isn't the only value and significance of having one wife. She is a helpmeet for an elder, and a comforter for him, as he fills his role with many and varied issues. I don't believe it would be healthy for me as an elder, or for the church, for me to try to do the work without her.

I love this church and it has been a net joy to have served in this capacity. I have no plans to leave this area or this church. I look forward to continuing worshiping and working under our leadership. I deeply regret some of my work as an elder resulted in people I love leaving the congregation and in some cases leaving the church. I know, some turned away from Jesus. He probably didn't like it either. Elders, I thank you for the work you do. I know how important it is and the personal price you and your wife pay. All glory to God.

In Christian love,

**Richard L. Moore**