

A Biblical Worldview In the Age of Apostasy

Part 1 Handout
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Rightly Dividing God's Unchanging Word (Truth) for a Biblical Worldview in the midst of the godless worldview causing the great apostasy (falling away from the truth) in the church. Jesus said "many" pastors, preachers and teachers would deceive "many" because they no longer believe God's Word is true. Matt 24:5

Matthew 24:5 AMPC

5 For many will come in (on the strength of) My name [appropriating the name which belongs to Me], saying, I am the Christ (the Messiah), and they will lead many astray.

Matthew 24:5 KJV

5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

John 1:1 AMPC

1 In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself.

Appropriating Defined:

participle present tense: Assigning to a particular person or use; claiming or using exclusively; severing to the perpetual use of an ecclesiastical corporation.

- Webster's Dictionary 1828

Before we go any further, let's define "worldview". Everyone has some type of worldview, but Christians are to hold a Biblical worldview, which means that every decision and action should be shaped by the Truth that was from the beginning—Jesus Christ or the Word. A Biblical worldview (or a Christian worldview) is based on God's unchanging Word. Since God is the Creator of everything in heaven and earth, He is the standard for truth. God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and unchanging.

A secular or non biblical worldview is one based on and shaped by the ever changing godless culture. It is seen through and affected by the emotions and feelings from our old sin nature. This worldview is what is causing the great apostasy (falling away from the truth) in the Church. Jesus said "many" pastors, preachers and teachers would deceive "many" because they no longer believe God's Word is true. (Matt 24:5)

Apostasy Defined:

(Greek: a defection, to depart)...

1. An abandonment of what one has professed; a total desertion, or departure from one's faith or religion.
2. The desertion from a party to which one has adhered.
3. An abscess.

Abscess defined: a swollen area within body tissue, containing an accumulation of pus.

Pride defined: Inordinate self-esteem; an unreasonable conceit of one's own superiority in talents, beauty, wealth, accomplishments, rank or elevation in office, which manifests itself in lofty airs, distance, reserve, and often in contempt of others.

Note: another word for swollen with pride: puffed-up, arrogant, egotistic, puffy...

Proverbs 14:12 AMPC

*12 There is a way which **seems right to a man** and appears straight before him, but at the end of it is the way of death.*

Proverbs 16:16-23 AMPC

16 How much better it is to get skillful and godly Wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.

17 The highway of the upright turns aside from evil; he who guards his way preserves his life.

18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

19 Better it is to be of a humble spirit with the meek and poor than to divide the spoil with the proud.

20 He who deals wisely and heeds [God's] word and counsel shall find good, and whoever leans on, trusts in, and is confident in the Lord—happy, blessed, and fortunate is he.

21 The wise in heart are called prudent, understanding, and knowing, and winsome speech increases learning [in both speaker and listener].

22 Understanding is a wellspring of life to those who have it, but to give instruction to fools is folly.

23 The mind of the wise instructs his mouth, and adds learning and persuasiveness to his lips.

Who Was King Solomon? King Solomon wrote the majority of the Proverbs, the Song of Solomon and the book of Ecclesiastes and was called the wisest man ever by God.

1 Kings 3:12 AMPC

12 Behold, I have done as you asked. I have given you a wise, discerning mind, so that no one before you was your equal, nor shall any arise after you equal to you.

1 Kings 3:12 GNT

12 I will do what you have asked. I will give you more wisdom and understanding than anyone has ever had before or will ever have again.

1 Kings 4:29-30 AMPC

29 And God gave Solomon exceptionally much wisdom and understanding, and breadth of mind like the sand of the seashore.

30 Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the people of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt.

Solomon was the third and final king of the unified nation of Israel, succeeding King Saul and King David. He was the son of David and Bathsheba, the former wife of Uriah the Hittite whom David had killed to cover his infidelity with Bathsheba while her husband was on the battlefield. Solomon is the only “son of David” to be “king over Israel in Jerusalem” (Ecclesiastes 1:1-12) and he ruled for 40 years (1 Kings 11:42).

When Solomon rose to the throne, he sought after God, and God gave him an opportunity to request for whatever he desired. Solomon humbly recognized his inability to rule well and nobly asked God for the wisdom he would need to govern God’s people righteously. God gave him wisdom and also wealth (1 Kings 3:4-15). In fact, "King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth" (1 Kings 10:23). God also gave Solomon peace on all fronts during most of his reign (1 Kings 4:20-25).

A well-known example of Solomon’s wisdom is his judgment in a dispute over the identity of the actual mother of an infant child (1 Kings 3:16-28). Solomon offered to split the living child in half, understanding that the true mother would prefer to lose her son to another woman than to have him killed. Solomon was not only wise in his rule as King but had excellent general wisdom as well. The Queen of Sheba traveled 1,200 miles to confirm the stories of his wisdom and dignity (1 Kings 10).

"Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed" (1 Kings 10:3-5). Solomon showed not only his knowledge but also his wisdom in action in the way his kingdom operated.

The Judgment of King Solomon

From 1 Kings 3, the Bible story of Solomon's judgment illustrates his profound wisdom. Two mothers living in the same home, each the mother of a newborn son, came to Solomon in a dispute over the custody of a baby boy. One of the babies had died, and each claimed the remaining boy as her own. Calling for a sword, Solomon announced his judgment: the baby would be cut in two, each woman to receive half. One mother did not oppose the ruling, stating that if she could not have the baby then neither of them could, but the other begged Solomon, "Give the baby to her, just don't kill him!"

The king declared the second woman the true mother, as a mother would even give up her baby if that was needed to save its life. "All Israel heard of the judgment that the king had rendered, and they stood in awe of the king because they perceived the wisdom of God was in him to do justice." (1 Kings 3:28)

Famous Bible Quotes from King Solomon

Proverbs 29:11 AMPC

11 A [self-confident] fool utters all his anger, but a wise man holds it back and stills it.

Proverbs 12:15 AMPC

15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who listens to counsel is wise.

Proverbs 3:5 AMPC

5 Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or understanding.

Proverbs 23:9 AMPC

9 Speak not in the ears of a [self-confident] fool, for he will despise the [godly] Wisdom of your words.

Proverbs 27:17 AMPC

17 Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend [to show rage or worthy purpose].

Proverbs 1:7 AMPC

7 The reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord is the beginning and the principal and choice part of knowledge [its starting point and its essence]; but fools despise skillful and godly Wisdom, instruction, and discipline.

Proverbs 16:3 AMPC

3 Roll your works upon the Lord [commit and trust them wholly to Him; He will cause your thoughts to become agreeable to His will, and] so shall your plans be established and succeed.

Here is what James had to tell the New Testament Church, remember, they were asking did we miss the Rapture, is this the Tribulation, and he said no. They were hearing heresy from the priests (pastors, preachers and teachers) of the day regarding sin, judgment and righteousness and the things to come that had already been written in God's Word.

They didn't want to miss the Rapture so James was telling them what they must do in order to be ready and not fall for the apostasy that was taking place at that time and what God's Word said will be a great apostasy or falling away from the truth prior to the Rapture....

James 1:5-6 AMPC

5 If any of you is deficient in wisdom, let him ask of [a]the giving God [Who gives] to everyone liberally and ungrudgingly, without reproaching or faultfinding, and it will be given him.

6 Only it must be in faith that he asks with no wavering (no hesitating, no doubting). For the one who wavers (hesitates, doubts) is like the billowing surge out at sea that is blown hither and thither and tossed by the wind.

7 For truly, let not such a person imagine that he will receive anything [he asks for] from the Lord,

8 *[For being as he is] a man of two minds (hesitating, dubious, irresolute), [he is] unstable and unreliable and uncertain about everything [he thinks, feels, decides].*

The prideful, the arrogant, the puffed up: pastor, preacher, teacher and follower of Jesus Christ needs to humble themselves and get rid of pride. The arrogant or prideful person will be and is deceived just like it was in the Garden...

Genesis 3:1-8 AMPC

1 *Now the serpent was more subtle and crafty than any living creature of the field which the Lord God had made. And he [Satan] said to the woman, Can it really be that God has said, You shall not eat from every tree of the garden?*

2 *And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat the fruit from the trees of the garden,*

3 *Except the fruit from the tree which is in the middle of the garden. God has said, You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.*

4 *But the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die,*

5 *For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, **and you will be like God, knowing the difference between good and evil and blessing and calamity.***

6 *And when the woman saw that the tree was good (suitable, pleasant) for food and that it was delightful to look at, and a tree to be desired in order to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she gave some also to her husband, and he ate.*

7 *Then the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves apronlike girdles.*

8 *And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.*

This is what the “Never Wrong” Prophet had to say...

Isaiah 46:9-10 AMPC

9 *[Earnestly] remember the former things, [which I did] of old; for I am God, and there is no one else; I am God, and there is none like Me,*
10 *Declaring the end and the result from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure and purpose,*

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 AMPC

9 *The thing that has been—it is what will be again, and that which has been done is that which will be done again; and there is nothing new under the sun.*
10 *Is there a thing of which it may be said, See, this is new? It has already been, in the vast ages of time [recorded or unrecorded] which were before us.*

Malachi 3:6 AMPC

6 *For I am the Lord, I do not change;*

Matthew 5:18 AMPC

18 *For truly I tell you, until the sky and earth pass away and perish, not one smallest letter nor one little hook [identifying certain Hebrew letters] will pass from the Law until all things [it foreshadows] are accomplished.*

Not one “thing” can be changed. Not a motive, intent, interpretation of God’s Word. No deletions, additions or not speaking of sin, judgement, righteousness and the things to come is allowed without serious eternal consequences that we will find out at the end of part 1 in Revelation 22.

In May of this year, 2022, a survey was conducted by George Barna, the acclaimed Christian researcher, CRC Director of Research (Cultural Research Center) at Arizona Christian University, and the findings show a shocking lack of a Biblical Worldview among American pastors.

This nationwide survey of America's Christian pastors shows that a majority of pastors lack a Biblical worldview. In fact, just slightly more than a third (37%) possess a Biblical worldview and the majority—62%—hold a hybrid worldview known as **Syncretism**.

Syncretize Defined:

to attempt to unite and harmonize especially without critical examination or logical unity; attempt to amalgamate or reconcile (differing things, especially religious beliefs, cultural elements, or schools of thought).

Note: The essential concept of Chrislam is that Christianity and Islam are compatible, that one can be a Christian and a Muslim at the same time. Chrislam is not an actual religion of its own, but a blurring of the differences and distinctions between Christianity and Islam.

Advocates of Chrislam point to facts such as Jesus being mentioned 25 times in the Qur'an (Koran), or Christianity and Islam having similar teachings on morals and ethics, or the need for the two largest monotheistic religions to unite to fight against the rise of atheism and alternative spirituality. Chrislam is viewed by some as the solution for the ongoing conflict between the Western world, which is predominantly Christian, and the Middle East, which is predominantly Muslim.

Daniel 2:19-35 AMPC

19 Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night, and Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

20 Daniel answered, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever! For wisdom and might are His!

21 He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding!

22 He reveals the deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him!

23 I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers, Who has given me wisdom and might and has made known to me now what we desired of You, for You have made known to us the solution to the king's problem.

24 Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon; he went and said thus to him: Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon! Bring me in before the king, and I will show to the king the interpretation.

25 Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste and said thus to him: I have found a man of the captives of Judah who will make known to the king the interpretation [of his dream].

26 The king said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen and the interpretation of it?

27 Daniel answered the king, The [mysterious] secret which the king has demanded neither the wise men, enchanters, magicians, nor astrologers can show the king,

28 But there is a God in heaven Who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what it is that shall be in the latter days (at the end of days). Your dream and the visions in your head upon your bed are these:

29 As for you, O king, as you were lying upon your bed thoughts came into your mind about what should come to pass hereafter, and He Who reveals secrets was making known to you what shall come to pass.

30 But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than anyone else living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king and that you may know the thoughts of your heart and mind.

31 You, O king, saw, and behold, [there was] a great image. This image which was mighty and of exceedingly great brightness stood before you, and the appearance of it was frightening and terrible.

32 As for this [a]image, its head was of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze,

33 Its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay [the baked clay of the potter].

34 As you looked, a [b]Stone was cut out without human hands, which smote the image on its feet of iron and [baked] clay [of the potter] and broke them to pieces.

35 Then the iron, the [baked] clay [of the potter], the bronze, the silver, and the gold were broken and crushed together and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors, and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them could be found. And the Stone that smote the image became a great mountain or rock and filled the whole earth.

Christianity outnumbers all religions put together by 10x over but they have the least impact because God's Church is fragmented, it is brittle like clay because we no longer believe the Bible is true and this was foretold would happen at the Time of the End.

I want to read to you some shocking findings that are part of the American Worldview Inventory 2022, conducted by the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University and administered to Christian pastors to better understand the worldview's that drive their thinking and behavior.

As veteran researcher and CRC Director of Research George Barna explains, "It's just further evidence that the culture is influencing the American church much more than Christian churches are influencing the culture".

According to this latest report, the level of Biblical worldview varies by the pastoral position held. Among senior pastors, for instance, 41% hold a Biblical worldview—the highest incidence among any of the five pastoral positions studied. Next highest was the 28% among associate pastors.

One of the more concerning revelations emerging from the research is the worldview of pastors who work with young people, Barna noted. The study found that only 12% of children's and youth pastors hold a Biblical worldview. And among teaching pastors, the level of Biblical worldview is a mere 13%.

“A person’s worldview primarily develops before the age of 13, then goes through a period of refinement during their teens and twenties. Therefore, from a worldview development perspective, a church’s most important ministers are the children’s pastor and the youth pastor,” Barna said.

“Discovering that seven out of every eight of those pastors lack a Biblical worldview helps to explain why so few among the nation’s youngest generations are developing a heart and mind for Biblical principles and ways of life, and why our society seems to have run wild over the last decade,” Barna explained.

According to ACU President Len Munsil, the findings highlight that the Biblical worldview crisis in America begins at the top.

“Our latest research shows this stunning erosion of Biblical understanding is present even among the leaders of the Church,” Munsil said. “We need a comprehensive strategy to rebuild a Biblical worldview into every generation and in every part of life,” Munsil said. “For ACU, this means strategically training our students to develop a Biblical worldview through their academic curriculum, spiritual formation programs, and co-curricular activities. And through CRC, we continue to identify ways to build Biblical worldview throughout the Church, in families and throughout our culture.”

The latest report from the AWVI 2022 found that the prevailing worldview among pastors is best described as Syncretism, the blending of ideas and applications from a variety of holistic worldviews into a unique but inconsistent combination that represents their personal preferences.

More than six of every 10 pastors (62%) hold a syncretistic worldview. This trend is also being seen more widely in American culture, with almost nine out of 10 U.S. adults (88%) embracing Syncretism as their primary worldview, according to a report from last year’s study of competing worldviews in the American Worldview Inventory 2021.

According to the latest release, pastors have a Biblical worldview in only one of eight worldview categories measured. Overall, 57% of all pastors think and act in consistently Biblical ways regarding the purpose of life and their calling.

Leading the way in Biblical understanding of life purpose and calling is senior pastors, among whom 60% are consistently Biblical. A minority of the other four pastoral segments hold a Biblical worldview in this area—48% of children’s and youth pastors, 41% of associate pastors, 36% of teaching pastors, and 27% of executive pastors.

A minority of all Christian pastors thinks and acts Biblically in each of the other seven categories of worldview measurement. Specifically, only 47% have a Biblical worldview regarding family and the value of life; 44% concerning issues related to God, creation, and history; 43% in relation to personal faith practices; 43% when it comes to matters of sin, salvation, and one’s relationship with God; 40% pertaining to human character and human nature; and 40% when it comes to measures of lifestyle, personal behavior, and relationships.

Lowest of all is a category that might have been expected to top the list: beliefs and behaviors related to the Bible, truth, and morality. Only 39% of all pastors have a Biblical worldview in this area.

Barna offered a note of hope in spite of the data. “You cannot fix something unless you know it’s broken,” he commented. “Other recent research we have conducted suggests most pastors believe that they are theologically in tune with the Bible. Perhaps these findings will cause many of them to take a careful look at how well their beliefs and behavior conform to Biblical principles and commands.”

Romans 1:22-32 AMPC

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools [professing to be smart, they made simpletons of themselves].

23 *And by them the glory and majesty and excellence of the immortal God were exchanged for and represented by images, resembling mortal man and birds and beasts and reptiles.*

24 *Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their [own] hearts to sexual impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves [abandoning them to the degrading power of sin],*

25 *Because they exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, Who is blessed forever! Amen (so be it).*

26 *For this reason God gave them over and abandoned them to vile affections and degrading passions. For their women exchanged their natural function for an unnatural and abnormal one,*

27 *And the men also turned from natural relations with women and were set ablaze (burning out, consumed) with lust for one another—men committing shameful acts with men and suffering in their own [a]bodies and personalities the inevitable consequences and penalty of their wrong-doing and going astray, which was [their] fitting retribution.*

28 *And so, since they did not see fit to acknowledge God or approve of Him or consider Him worth the knowing, God gave them over to a base and condemned mind to do things not proper or decent but loathsome,*

29 *Until they were filled (permeated and saturated) with every kind of unrighteousness, iniquity, grasping and covetous greed, and malice. [They were] full of envy and jealousy, murder, strife, deceit and treachery, ill will and cruel ways. [They were] secret backbiters and gossipers,*

30 *Slanderers, hateful to and hating God, full of insolence, arrogance, [and] boasting; inventors of new forms of evil, disobedient and undutiful to parents.*

31 *[They were] without understanding, conscienceless and faithless, heartless and loveless [and] merciless.*

32 *Though they are fully aware of God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve to die, they not only do them themselves but approve and applaud others who practice them.*

Malachi 3:6 AMPC

6 For I am the Lord, I do not change;

Matthew 5:18 AMPC

18 For truly I tell you, until the sky and earth pass away and perish, not one smallest letter nor one little hook [identifying certain Hebrew letters] will pass from the Law until all things [it foreshadows] are accomplished.

In the last chapter of the last book of the Bible... the culmination of all the other 65 books of the Bible, this is what John had to tell you and I, the End Times follower of Jesus Christ and the pastors, preachers and teachers:

Revelation 22 AMPC

1 Then he showed me the river whose waters give life, sparkling like crystal, flowing out from the throne of God and of the Lamb

2 Through the middle of the Broadway of the city; also, on either side of the river was the tree of life with its twelve varieties of fruit, yielding each month its fresh crop; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing and the restoration of the nations.

3 There shall no longer exist there anything that is accursed (detestable, foul, offensive, impure, hateful, or horrible). But the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall worship Him [pay divine honors to Him and do Him holy service].

4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.

5 And there shall be no more night; they have no need for lamplight or sunlight, for the Lord God will illuminate them and be their light, and they shall reign [as kings] forever and ever (through the eternities of the eternities).

6 And he [of the seven angels further] said to me, These statements are reliable (worthy of confidence) and genuine (true). And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent His messenger (angel) to make known and exhibit to His servants what must soon come to pass.

7 And behold, I am coming speedily. Blessed (happy and [a]to be envied) is he who observes and lays to heart and keeps the truths of the prophecy (the predictions, consolations, and warnings) contained in this [little] book.

8 And I, John, am he who heard and witnessed these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell prostrate before the feet of the messenger (angel) who showed them to me, to worship him.

9 But he said to me, Refrain! [You must not do that!] I am [only] a fellow servant along with yourself and with your brethren the prophets and with those who are mindful of and practice [the truths contained in] the messages of this book. Worship God!

10 And he [further] told me, Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book and make no secret of them, for the time [b]when things are brought to a crisis and the period of their fulfillment is near.

11 He who is unrighteous (unjust, wicked), let him be unrighteous still; and he who is filthy (vile, impure), let him be filthy still; and he who is righteous (just, upright, in right standing with God), let him do right still; and he who is holy, let him be holy still.

12 Behold, I am coming soon, and I shall bring My wages and rewards with Me, to repay and render to each one just what his own actions and his own work merit.

13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last (the Before all and the End of all).

14 Blessed (happy and [c]to be envied) are those who cleanse their garments, that they may have the authority and right to [approach] the tree of life and to enter through the gates into the city.

15 [But] without are the dogs and those who practice sorceries (magic arts) and impurity [the lewd, adulterers] and the murderers and idolaters and everyone who loves and deals in falsehood (untruth, error, deception, cheating).

16 I, Jesus, have sent My messenger (angel) to you to witness and to give you assurance of these things for the churches (assemblies). I am the Root (the Source) and the Offspring of David, the radiant and brilliant Morning Star.

17 *The [Holy] Spirit and the bride (the church, the true Christians) say, Come! And let him who is listening say, Come! And let everyone come who is thirsty [who is painfully conscious of his need [d]of those things by which the soul is refreshed, supported, and strengthened]; and whoever [earnestly] desires to do it, let him come, take, appropriate, and drink the water of Life without cost.*

18 I [personally solemnly] warn everyone who listens to the statements of the prophecy [the [e]predictions and the consolations and admonitions pertaining to them] in this book: If anyone shall add anything to them, God will add and lay upon him the plagues (the afflictions and the calamities) that are recorded and described in this book.

19 And if anyone cancels or takes away from the statements of the book of this prophecy [these [f]predictions relating to Christ's kingdom and its speedy triumph, together with the consolations and admonitions or warnings pertaining to them], God will cancel and take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the city of holiness (purity and hallowedness), which are described and promised in this book.

20 *He Who gives this warning and affirms and testifies to these things says, Yes (it is true). [Surely] I am coming quickly (swiftly, speedily). Amen (so let it be)! Yes, come, Lord Jesus!*

21 *The grace (blessing and favor) of the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) be [g]with all the saints (God's holy people, [h]those set apart for God, to be, as it were, exclusively His). Amen (so let it be)!*

In the book of Titus and Timothy there is a list of qualifications for a pastor, one who is to “rightly” divide the Word. Both books have similar language/intent for qualifications for a pastor/preacher/teacher.

1 Timothy 3:6 AMPC

6 *He must not be a new convert (or novice/unskilled), or he may [develop a beclouded and stupid state of mind] as the result of pride [be blinded by conceit, and] fall into the condemnation that the devil [once] did.*

1 Timothy 3:6 KJV

6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

A pastor must be able to teach (Titus 1:9; 1 Tim 3:2). All of the other qualifications are character qualities. This is the only ability-based requirement. He is to be able to teach sound doctrine, not just be able to communicate in an excellent manner. Must have the ability to fully explain and rightly divide the writings of God's Word.