

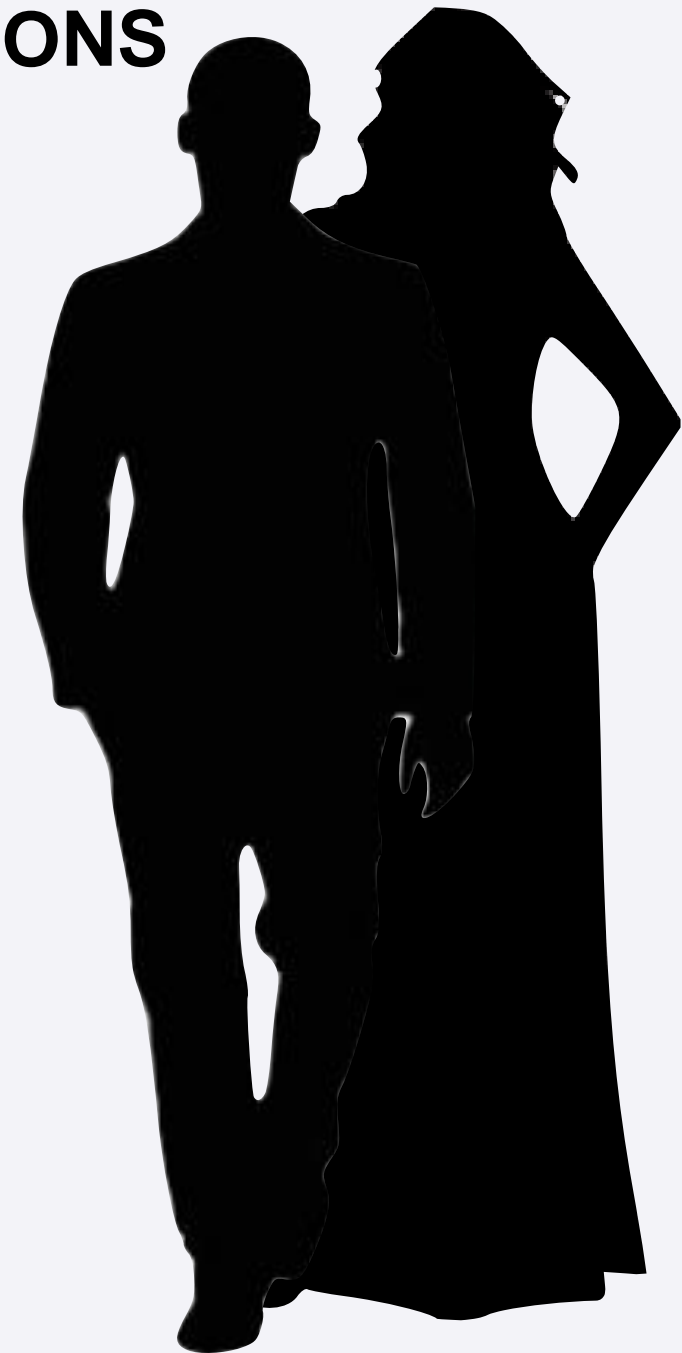
The Book Of Titus

CRETE

A satellite photograph of the island of Crete, showing its elongated shape and rugged terrain. The island is surrounded by deep blue water, with some smaller islands visible in the distance. The word "CRETE" is written in white capital letters across the western part of the island.

CONTROVERSIAL ELDER QUALIFICATIONS

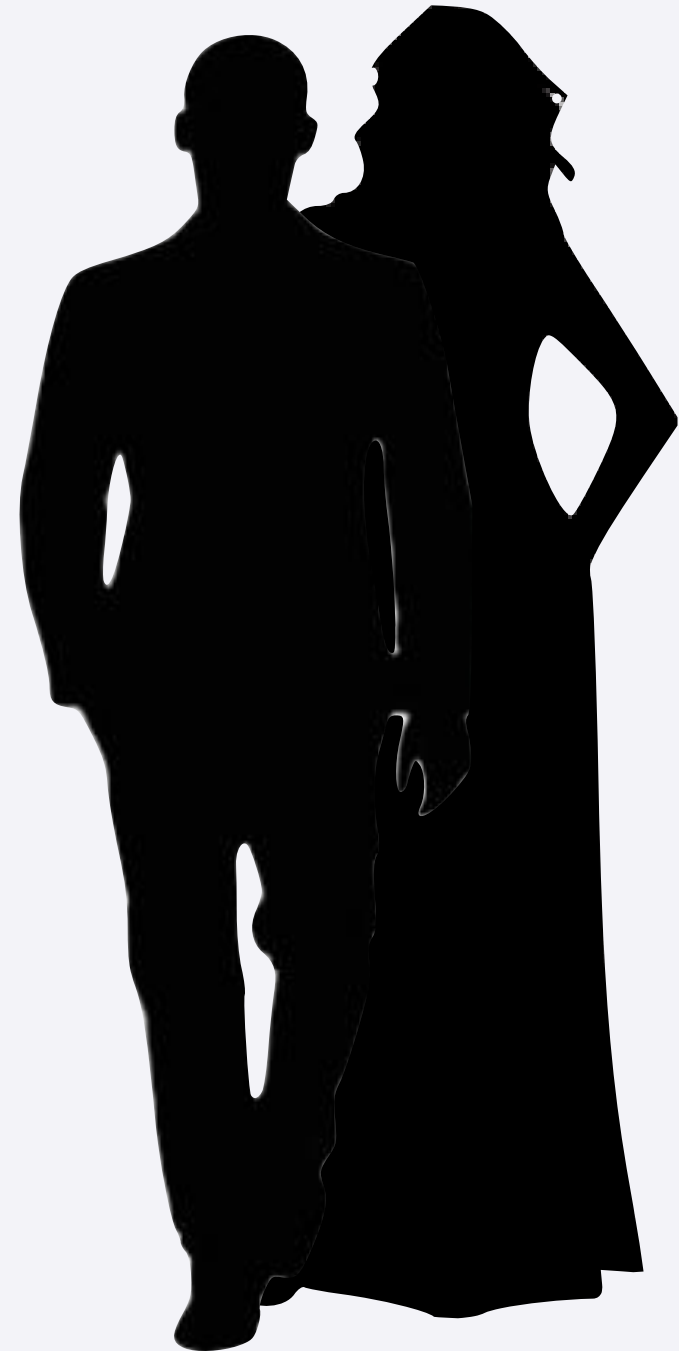
1. What does it mean to be a husband of one wife?
2. Must an elder have more than one child to have “believing children”?



A husband of one wife

POSSIBLE INTERPRETATIONS:

- An elder must be married
- An elder cannot be married to more than one wife at a time
- An elder cannot be one who is divorced
- An elder's spouse cannot be one who is a divorcee
- An elder cannot remarry while his wife is alive
- An elder cannot remarry even in the event of the death of his spouse
- An elder must be of a character such that he is a one-woman kind of man



A husband of one wife

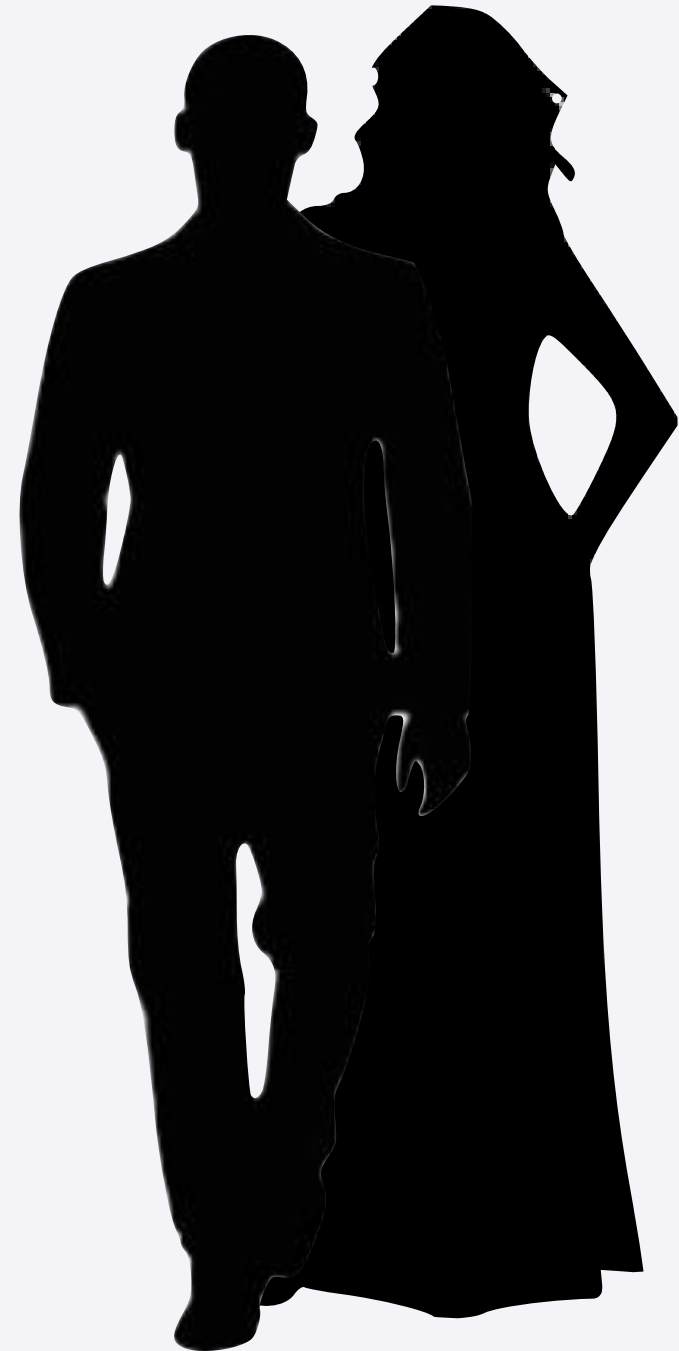
mias gunaikos andra

one woman man

IT REALLY MUST MEAN ONE OF TWO THINGS:

1. Does it refer to **the state of his life**? (He is only allowed one wife in his whole life)
2. Does it refer to **his attitude**? (He is a man known for faithfulness to his wife)

There is no way of knowing which it is without looking at other passages.



A husband of one wife

mias gunaikos andra

one woman man

The bishop therefore must be without reproach, the **husband of one wife**, (1 Tim 3:2)

He must be a one-woman man

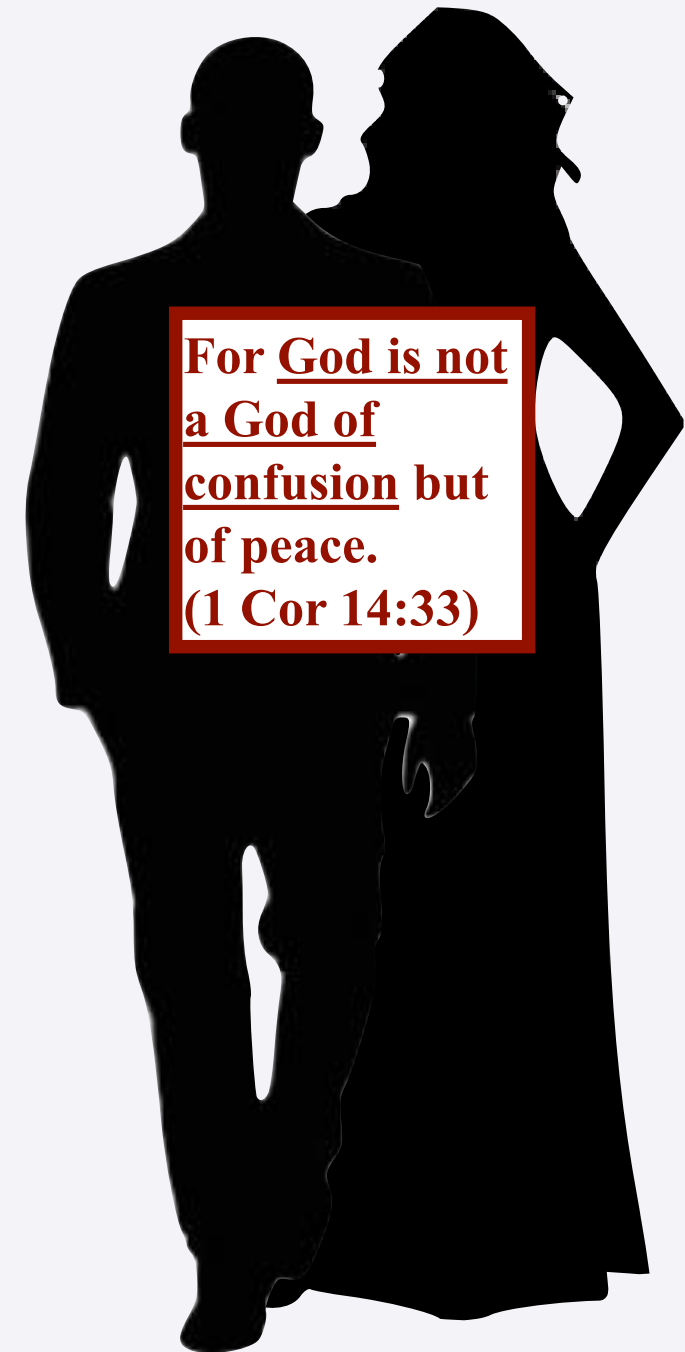
Let none be enrolled as a widow under threescore years old, having been **the wife of one man** (1 Tim 5:9)

She must have been a one-man woman

BUT WAIT!!!

“I desire therefore that the younger widows marry, bear children, rule the household, give no occasion to the adversary for reviling:” (1 Tim 5:14)

Paul says that the best thing a widow can do is to marry a second man if she is widowed.



A husband of one wife

mias gunaikos andra

one woman man

THIS IS A QUALIFICATION OF **CHARACTER**.

A man can have been married multiple times and still meet this qualification.

A man can even be widowed and still meet this qualification.

A man who is widowed is going to struggle to meet the qualifications found in 1 Tim 3:11 though!

“Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things.” (1 Tim 3:11)



The elder must be the father of faithful children

(I Tim. 3:4, Tit. 1:6)

ELDERS

Everyone agrees that it is better if an elder has multiple faithful children... but that isn't the issue.

Does The Scripture REQUIRE a man to have multiple children to become an elder?

The word 'children' can be used in two ways:

- To refer to a plurality of children
- Or what is referred to as "plural of one"

To say that "children" has to mean "more than one," then Paul is also telling Titus that a man is disqualified only if he has more than one child who is accused of dissipation or rebellion.

Examples Of A Class Plural:

Gen. 21:7 "And she said, Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would have children?"

Eph. 6:1 "Children, obey your parents"

Matt. 22:24 "If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife"

1 Tim. 5:4 "But if a widow has children or grandchildren..."

