

A Study About Elders

(Part 14)

I. Introduction:

- A. Elders are watchmen for the congregation (**Hebrews 13:17**).
 - 1. They are expected to “rule well” (**I Timothy 5:17**).
 - 2. A man that abuses his authority for harm... (**Luke 12:42-46**).
- B. What kind of men would elders be, if they stirred up trouble (**Psalms 140:1-2** and **Proverbs 26:17-21**)?
 - 1. Leave off contention (**Proverbs 17:14**)?
 - 2. What does fighting do to relationships (**Proverbs 16:28**)?
 - 3. Doesn't the Lord want peace in His body (**I Corinthians 14:33**)?

II. Body: Not A Brawler (**I Timothy 3:3**).

- A. The Greek wording translated “not a brawler” means: “peaceable: — not a brawler. Not to be withstood, invincible, not contentious, abstaining from fighting” (Strong's # 269).
 - 1. The Greek wording appears one other time in the New Testament and is translated “brawler” there as well (**Titus 3:3**).
 - 2. We have covered this side of this that is physical when we studied “no striker” (**I Timothy 3:3** and **Titus 1:7**).
- B. If a person is peaceable they'll not be a brawler (**Romans 14:19**).
 - 1. Without peace, we'll not see the Lord (**Hebrews 12:14**).
 - 2. We must seek peace (**Matthew 5:9** and **I Peter 3:8-12**).
 - 3. We have to use God's wisdom for real peace (**James 3:13-18**).
 - 4. The only time we cannot pursue peace is at the cost of truth and righteousness (**Matthew 10:34-39**, **Acts 13:38-14:7**, and **Galatians 2:1-18**).
- C. No man should think of himself as not able to be withstood or invincible (**Romans 12:3**).
 - 1. Mankind has a God-given freewill (**Deuteronomy 30:15-20** and **Philippians 2:12**).
 - 2. Not even the most godly leaders can prevent the exercise of that freewill (**John 6:60-71** and **II Timothy 4:9-15**).
- D. We cannot please God if we are contentious (**I Corinthians 11:16-19**).
 - 1. Those who want to have debate, arguments, strife, factions; is what a contentious person is (**Romans 1:28-32**, **Romans 13:13**, **I Corinthians 3:1-11**, and **II Corinthians 12:20**).
 - 2. Such individuals need marked, removed, and avoided (**Romans 16:17-18**, **I Timothy 6:3-5**, and **Titus 3:9-11**).

III. Conclusion: Rather than the mindset of a carnal fighter, a person of strife, we all should have the mindset of a peacemaker (**Galatians 5:19-26**).