

A Study About Elders

(Part 18)

I. Introduction:

A. As Jesus was faced with death He showed the desire of obedience above the fear of suffering and physical death (**Luke 22:39-46**; cf. **Hebrews 5:5-10**).

1. The mentality of Christ was to do the Father's will (**John 4:34**, **John 6:38**, **John 17:1-4**, and **John 19:28-30**).

2. He kept our Father's commandments (**John 15:10**).

B. Our Lord's humble obedience is our example to follow (**Philippians 2:3-11**).

1. If we think as He thought and live as He lived in this world, whose will will we be concerned with (**Hebrews 10:7-9**)?

2. How should we think of ourselves as servants in the kingdom (**Luke 17:7-10**)?

II. Body: Not Selfwilled (**Titus 1:7**).

A. The word translated "selfwilled" means: "self-pleasing, i.e. arrogant: — self-willed" (Strong's # 829).

1. This term appears one other time in the New Testament (**II Peter 2:10**).

2. Self-will is the very thing we have to surrender that we may properly serve our Lord (**II Corinthians 5:14-17**).

B. Saints cannot be self-pleasing (**Romans 14:7-9** and **I Corinthians 6:20**).

1. Our mindset should be first on pleasing our Lord (**Matthew 28:18-20**, **Romans 10:1-3**, **Galatians 2:20**, **Philippians 1:20-21**, **Colossians 3:16-17**, **I Thessalonians 4:1-2**, and **Titus 2:10-14**).

2. Then our minds should be on serving our brethren (**John 13:1-17**, **Romans 15:1-3**, **Galatians 5:13**, **Ephesians 5:22**, and **I Peter 5:5-6**).

3. The will of others ought to supersede our own will in areas wherein we are free to choose such (**I Corinthians 10:23-33**; cf. **Acts 5:29** and **Galatians 1:10**).

C. Saints cannot be arrogant ["having or revealing an exaggerated [sense of one's own importance or abilities" (New Oxford American Dictionary)] (**Proverbs 8:13** and **Romans 12:3**).

1. Think about how God looks upon those whom elevate themselves (**Isaiah 2:11-12**, **Luke 14:7-11**, and **Luke 18:9-14**).

2. To exaggerate one's importance or come to that conclusion any way is wrong (**Proverbs 17:1-2** and **II Corinthians 10:7-18**).

3. It takes a humble mind to repent of one's sins and faithfully serve God (**II Chronicles 7:14**, **Proverbs 22:4**, and **James 4:6-10**).

III. Conclusion: Let this mind be in you: "*I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart*" (**Psalms 40:8**).