

## A Study About Elders

(Part 23)

### I. Introduction:

A. Generally speaking, there is a process that leads to sin (**James 1:13-16**).

1. There is first a desire for something you shouldn't desire that you would then go on to fulfill (**Ephesians 2:3**).

2. This is why abstaining from fleshly desires is important (**I Peter 2:9-11**).

B. The decision comes down to whether we serve our desires (**Titus 3:3**) or His desires (**II Corinthians 5:14-17**).

1. Crucify those sinful desires (**Galatians 5:24**).

2. No longer seeking to provide fulfillment for them (**Romans 13:13-14**).

### II. Body: Temperate (**Titus 1:8**).

A. This word appears once in the N.T. and means: "Strong in a thing (masterful), i.e. (figuratively and reflexively) self-controlled (in appetite, etc.): — temperate. Strong, robust; having power over, possessed of (a thing) mastering, controlling, curbing, restraining; controlling one's self, temperate, continent" (Strong's # 1468).

1. Having the ability to control, master, curb a desire (**Proverbs 25:16**).

2. Bringing one's flesh into subjection (**I Corinthians 9:24-27**).

3. Being able to stay focused on the right things (**Proverbs 4:25-27**).

B. Someone who lacks self-control is like a broken down city without walls (**Proverbs 25:28**).

1. When a city was in such a state, those walls need rebuilt (**Nehemiah 2:11-17**).

2. What is better than taking a city (**Proverbs 16:32**)?

3. On the other hand, consider how that learning things such as controlling the untamable tongue enables you to control your whole body (**James 3:1-18**; cf. **Proverbs 13:3** and **James 1:26**).

C. Godly self-control is a part of a learning process (**II Peter 1:3-11**).

1. You learn what's important and what is not (**I Timothy 6:6-12** and **I John 2:15-17**).

2. You learn how to control your thinking properly (**II Corinthians 10:1-5**).

3. Age is a factor (**II Timothy 2:22** and **Titus 2:2**).

4. If our desires cannot be controlled, the word of God will be ineffective on us (**Mark 4:19**).

5. If self-control is a problem for any of us, we have to remove those things that cause conflict and redirect our minds (**I Peter 2:1-2** and **I Peter 4:1-2**).

III. Conclusion: An elder ought to be capable of restraint as Daniel was (**Daniel 1:8**; cf. **Proverbs 23:1-3**).