

A Study About Elders (Part 7)

I. Introduction:

A. The mind of a man who is leading others must be considered. Is it cluttered? Is it conflicted? This matters even with evangelists (**II Timothy 2:1-4**).

1. It does not mean a man cannot have internal conflicts (**II Corinthians 7:5**).

2. The question is, can he deal with life's clutter and still focus on being a spiritual leader (**II Corinthians 4:7-5:13**)?

B. The ability to think clearly and control our thoughts is significant for all saints for various reasons. Note a few...

1. To avoid anxieties (**Philippians 4:6-9**).

2. To stay on track (**Hebrews 12:1-3**).

3. To control the desires of the flesh (**Romans 8:1-8** and **I Peter 2:11**).

4. To subdue disobedient thoughts (**II Corinthians 10:1-5**).

II. Body: A Bishop Must Be Sober (**I Timothy 3:2** and **Titus 1:8**).

A. Sober: "safe (sound) in mind, i.e. self-controlled (moderate as to opinion or passion): — discreet, sober, temperate. Of a sound mind, sane, in one's senses curbing one's desires and impulses, self-controlled, temperate" (Strong's # 4998).

1. Old and young are to be sober-minded [sober; discreet] (**Titus 2:1-6**).

2. Can a man use his mind as his defense (**I Peter 4:1-2**) rather than to offend (**Proverbs 21:5** and **Isaiah 59:7**)?

3. Think about a double minded person - what is he or she (**James 1:8** and **James 4:8**)?

B. Sound, healthy in mind (**Ephesians 4:17-24**).

1. A mind not corrupted (**II Corinthians 11:3**).

2. Yet, one who might appear mad [crazy] to the world (**Acts 26:1-25**).

C. Self-control as to opinion or passion (**Romans 12:3**).

1. Think about how Solomon used His wisdom governing during a conflict to a resolution (**I Kings 3:16-28**).

2. When a man oversees God's people he must reason after the wisdom of God (**Ezra 7:25**) rather than use his opinions after the flesh (**Proverbs 16:2** and **Romans 10:1-3**).

D. Discreet [careful and circumspect in one's speech or actions, especially in order to avoid causing offense or to gain an advantage] (**Ephesians 5:15-17**).

1. Among the world (**Colossians 4:5-6**; cf. **Psalms 39:1**).

2. Also, very cautious in word and deed among the saints (**Romans 14:13**) as one whose faith is to be followed (**Hebrews 13:7** and **I Peter 5:1-3**).

III. Conclusion: All Of Us Must Be Sober-Minded (**I Peter 1:13-16**).