

## Having No Guide, Overseer, Or Ruler

### I. Introduction:

A. In no way should this lesson be taken as teaching against the need for elders. It is the will of God that every congregation have elders (**Acts 14:21-23** and **Titus 1:5**).

1. Qualified elders (**I Timothy 3:1-7** and **Titus 1:5-9**) are supposed to oversee the flock (**I Peter 5:1-4**). \*For details on the qualifications of elders, see: <https://www.wordsoftruth.net/qualifiedelders.html>

2. They have the authority to rule over the flock (**Hebrews 13:7; 13:17**).

B. Nor is the lesson intended to suggest that we are to “got it all alone” (**Ecclesiastes 4:7-12** and **Mark 6:7**).

1. From the beginning, man was not well to be alone (**Genesis 2:18**).

2. Faithful companionship is helpful in many ways (**Proverbs 27:17**, **Ephesians 4:14-16**, **Hebrews 3:13**, **Jude 1:22-23**, etc.).

### II. Body: **Proverbs 6:4-11**

A. At some point, don't we need to grow to the point wherein we don't need someone to hold our hand (**Philippians 2:12**; cf. **Philippians 1:21-27**)?

1. Think about raising our children. From sitting up, to crawling, to walking, to education, etc... We teach our children independence. Spiritual maturity is similar (**Hebrews 5:12-6:2**; cf. **I Corinthians 14:20** and **Ephesians 4:13-14**).

2. This is not a point wherein we ought to puff ourselves up (**Proverbs 25:27**) or think we have earned salvation without our Lord (**Ephesians 2:1-10**).

3. What is the reward based on (**Matthew 16:27**, **Romans 2:6**, **I Corinthians 3:8**, **Galatians 6:7-9**, and **Revelation 22:12**)?

B. Is the Judgment Day a day of collective or individual judgment (**Romans 14:10-12**)?

1. Judged for the good and bad (**II Corinthians 5:10**).

2. Destinations for the good and the evil (**John 5:28-29**).

3. This is NOT to say that what we do collectively, as a congregation, is somehow without accountability (**Revelation 3:14-22**).

4. This is also NOT to downplay the significance of error in fellowship either (**Romans 16:17-18**, **Ephesians 5:6-11**, **I Timothy 5:22**, **II John 1:9-11**, and **Revelation 2:14-16**).

C. Think about the mindset of Institutionalism in these principles. People who want the church, government, or some other institution to do their work for them. That mindset had to be taught against in the first century [let not the church be charged] (**I Timothy 5:3-16**).

1. Think about those who'd rather send money to an unauthorized human institution to care for the fatherless or widows rather than obey **James 1:21-27** as written to individual saints.
2. What about those who pay for child care rather than care for their own children? Who should be telling our children the important things of life (**Psalms 78:1-7**)? \*Current politics in America wants to have universal pre K and government involved daycare starting at age 2. Man-made institutions want to raise your children in the likeness of the world!
3. How many people have the "call someone else" mentality rather than being good neighbors (**Luke 10:25-37**)?

III. Conclusion: Drill this into your head... **Galatians 6:3-5**