

A Study About Elders

(Part 11)

I. Introduction:

- A. Being a physically violent person is not a good thing (**Proverbs 16:29**).
 - 1. Rather than causing a fight, we should be desirous of calming down such situations (**Proverbs 15:1-2** and **Proverbs 15:18**).
 - 2. Paul chose to use the power given to him to inflict physical harm (**Acts 13:4-12**), but he didn't use that ability to win physical altercations (**Acts 14:19-20**).
- B. In all that we shall address, let's be mindful that there is a balance...
 - 1. Having a willingness to take an insulting blow and not respond in a like manner is one lawful response (**Matthew 5:38-39**).
 - 2. Also, we have a Scriptural right of self-defense (**Exodus 22:2-3**, **Luke 11:21**, and **Luke 22:36**) as long as we stay within the boundaries of civil law (**I Peter 2:13-16**).

II. Body: No Striker (**I Timothy 3:3** and **Titus 1:7**).

- A. A striker is someone that is: "a smiter, i.e. pugnacious (quarrelsome): — striker. Bruiser, ready for a blow; a pugnacious, contentious, quarrelsome person" (Strong's # 4131).
 - 1. This is a physical hitting of someone (i.e. **Luke 22:63-64**).
 - 2. Should we be looking at the people around about us with the intentions of throwing a punch even if they are our enemies (**Mark 12:28-34**, **Romans 13:8-10**, and **Galatians 5:14**)?
 - 3. We will address "contentious" when we discuss an elder not being a "brawler" (**I Timothy 3:3**).
- B. Some people will submit to those who hurt them (**II Corinthians 11:20**).
 - 1. So-called religious leaders have used such tactics (**John 18:20-22** and **Acts 23:1-2**).
 - 2. The Jews even tried to silence the Gospel using physical violence (**Acts 4:13-21** and **Acts 5:27-42**).
 - 3. Saints whom have authority over others should not use physical violence against them to sustain authority (**Ephesians 6:9**).
- C. Consider where this mentality comes from (**James 4:1-2**).
 - 1. Serving carnal lusts is foolish disobedience (**Titus 3:1-3**).
 - 2. Such internal conflict is troublesome (**Galatians 5:17**).
 - 3. What's that all lead to (**James 1:13-16** and **Jude 1:15-18**)?

III. Conclusion: Our fight is not a physical one (**II Corinthians 10:1-5**).