

A Study About Elders (Part 8)

I. Introduction:

A. Unfortunately, we live in a world where people improperly judge based on appearance (**Matthew 23:27-28**).

1. We [saints] know better (**John 7:24**).
2. Yet, we have to have some awareness of how we appear to others (**I Thessalonians 5:22**).

B. We're going to talk about being modest, of good behavior, with the idea of a man whom is well-mannered (**II Timothy 2:19-26**).

1. Not using the world's definition of such terms (**John 6:63, I Corinthians 3:19, II Timothy 3:16-17, and I John 2:15-17**).
2. Making sure we don't create definitions of such terms either that are inconsistent with the word of God (i.e. - some would define such terms making our sinless Savior a sinner - i.e. **John 2:13-17**).

II. Body: An Elder Must Be Of Good Behavior (**I Timothy 3:2**).

A. The terms we are discussing mean: "orderly, i.e. decorous: — of good behaviour, modest. Well-arranged, seemly, modest" (Strong's # 2887).

1. This term only appears one other time in the New Testament and it is translated "modest" in that passage (**I Timothy 2:9**).
2. The thought about modest apparel is that one's character stands out above their dress, looks (**I Timothy 2:10** and **I Peter 3:1-4**).
3. Some would carnally think of a man who can dress like a businessman as a future elder. A pig could be dressed up in a suit and a tie, that doesn't make that pig a Christian let alone an elder (**Proverbs 11:22**).
4. Think about the immodesty of an overly appareled man (**James 2:1-4**).

B. Thinking about being "decorous" [in keeping with good taste and propriety; polite and restrained] (i.e. **I Peter 3:8-11**).

1. Clothed in a godly manner with proper conduct (**Colossians 3:10-17**).
2. One who's fruit displays a spiritual mind (**Galatians 5:22-23**).

C. We cannot just look for one who is "looking religious" (**Matthew 23:1-12**).

1. This may be what the world looks for in spiritual leaders (**Luke 7:24-28**).
2. What would that mindset conclude about John (**Matthew 3:1-6**)?
3. The Lord doesn't approve of men that want to be seen, heard, and exalted (**Matthew 6:1-8** and **Acts 12:20-23**).
4. Look for men to be presentable in conduct, but do not want to stand above the message, work, etc. (**Acts 14:8-18** and **I Corinthians 4:1-6**).
5. Think about Jesus (**Isaiah 53:2**).

III. Conclusion: Does This Man Look The Part To Godly Eyes (**Philippians 1:27**)?