

ELDERS PROTECT THE CHURCH

Acts 20:17-38

Point #1

Elders need to be on guard for themselves .

Be on guard

(Acts 20:28 NIV) Keep watch over yourselves...

Prosecho

- Take heed (KJV)
- Keep Watch (NIV)
- Be on guard (NASB)
- to hold the mind towards
- To pay attention to
- be cautious about
- apply oneself to
- adhere to
- beware, be given to, take heed to
- have regard

Life and Doctrine

(1 Tim 4:16 NIV) Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Elders Qualifications

<u>ENGLISH</u>	<u>1 TIMOTHY</u>	<u>TITUS</u>	<u>FOR ALL</u>
■ Blameless	1 Tim 3:2	Titus 1:6	1 Tim 5:7
■ Temperate	1 Tim 3:2		1 Th 5:6
■ Self-controlled	1 Tim 3:2	Titus 1:8	Titus 2:12
■ Not quick-tempered			Titus 1:7 Jas 1:19
■ Not violent	1 Tim 3:3	Titus 1:7	Rom 12:19
■ Respectable	1 Tim 3:2		1 Tim 2:9
■ Not given to drunkenness	1 Tim 3:3	Titus 1:7	Eph 5:18
■ Gentle	1 Tim 3:3		Php 4:5
■ Hospitable	1 Tim 3:2	Titus 1:8	1 Pet 4:9
■ Not quarrelsome	1 Tim 3:3		Titus 3:2
■ Not overbearing		Titus 1:7	2 Pet 2:10
■ Upright		Titus 1:8	Heb 12:23
■ Not greedy	1 Tim 3:2		Heb 13:5
■ Not for gain	1 Tim 3:3	Titus 1:7	1Cor 10:24
■ Lover of good		Titus 1:8	Php 4:8-9
■ Holy		Titus 1:8	Eph 4:24

Doctrine

(Titus 2:1 NIV) You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.

Sound Doctrine

(Titus 1:9-10 NIV) He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group.

Itching Ears

(2 Tim 4:3 NIV) For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

Point #2

Elders must be on guard for the church.

Watch over the flock

(Acts 20:28 NIV) Keep watch over ... all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Things to watch out for

Watch out for wolves from without.

Savage Wolves

(Acts 20:29 NIV) I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock.

Recognize them by their fruit

(Mat 7:15-16 NIV) "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?"

Things to watch out for

Watch out for wolves from within .

Even from within

(Acts 20:30 NIV) Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.

Divisive people

(Titus 3:10 NIV) Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him.

How do we respond?

How do we respond?

(Heb 13:17 NIV) Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

It's a kindness

(Psa 141:5 NIV) Let a righteous man strike me--it is a kindness; let him rebuke me--it is oil on my head. My head will not refuse it. Yet my prayer is ever against the deeds of evildoers;

Point #3

Elders have been committed to God for
this task

Committed to this task

(Acts 20:31-32 NIV) So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Judged more strictly

(James 3:1 NIV) Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

Conclusion