

I. The Requirement: Elders and Deacons Must Be Mature and Tested Leaders

(3:6-7, 10; 5:22, 24-25)

II. The Warnings: The Dangers of Immature, Untested Leaders

A. The Danger to the Man: Pride & the Condemnation of the Devil (3:6; 6:3-4; 2 Tim 3:4; Gen 2-3)

B. The Danger to the Church & Its Witness: Reproach and the Snare of the Devil (3:6; 2 Tim 2:26)

III. A Charge: Be On Guard, Be Patient (1 Pet 5:5, 8)

“The way the apostles lived made the message—not the messenger—the issue. This is an example for every believer. How easy it would be to win the world for Christ if every believer behaved like a Christian. As it is, we find ourselves having to defend the followers of the gospel as often as we defend the gospel itself.” –Philip Ryken

Reflection Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

1. When considering a man for church leadership, what is the significance of biological age? How does it compare to spiritual age—i.e. years since being born again?
2. Why does Paul mention the devil twice in this passage on elders?
3. How can you be on guard against the snare of the devil?
4. In light of this passage, how can you be praying for our elders and deacons?