



**Title:** Above Reproach: Guarding Your Heart and Testimony in the Ministry

**Speaker:** Dan Preston

*“This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) 6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.” (1 Timothy 3:1-7)*

INTRODUCTION: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## 1. Understanding the \_\_\_\_\_

**QUOTE:** “The leader’s most powerful tool is not his position, but his life.”–J. Oswald Sanders

**QUOTE:** “Take heed to yourselves, lest your example contradict your doctrine.”–**Richard Baxter**

## 2. Guarding Your \_\_\_\_\_

*“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”  
(Proverbs 4:23)*



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## A. Heart Dangers

- \_\_\_\_\_ – Success Breeds Self-Reliance. Like Saul, Humility Can Quickly Turn to Jealousy and Self-Importance
- \_\_\_\_\_ – Ministry Wounds Harden Into Cynicism if Not Surrendered to Christ
- \_\_\_\_\_ – Hidden Lust, Greed, or Envy Quietly Erode Integrity Until They Explode Publicly

## B. Heart Protection

- We Need \_\_\_\_\_ in Scripture and Prayer for Our Own Soul, Not Just Sermon Prep
- We Need \_\_\_\_\_ With Trusted Voices Who Ask the Hard Questions
- We Need \_\_\_\_\_. Neglecting God's Rhythm of Renewal Leaves You Vulnerable

## 3. Guarding Your \_\_\_\_\_

### A. Areas of Vulnerability

- \_\_\_\_\_ – Be Fully Transparent and Accountable With Money
- \_\_\_\_\_ – Maintain Strict Boundaries With the Opposite Sex to Protect Your Marriage and Credibility
- \_\_\_\_\_ – Avoid Gossip, Crude Talk, and Careless Words That Quickly Undermine Respect

## 4. Persevering In the \_\_\_\_\_

**QUOTE:** “It is impossible to be a good leader without being a good man.” – **J. Oswald Sanders**

*“For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.” (2 Timothy 4:10)*

**CONCLUSION:** \_\_\_\_\_

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