



Good Kills

David Engelhardt

Today's culture seeks to vilify masculinity, but God designed men to protect their loved ones and stand for what is right. This same warrior ethos should exist in the pastorate.

Speaking to the church leaders in Ephesus, Paul writes in Acts 20:28, *"Keep watch over yourselves and the entire flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers."* Pastors are to be shepherds of the Church of Christ, which He purchased with His own blood. Just as in Paul's day, God's people remain vulnerable to those who distort the truth and draw believers away from Christ.

Like a shepherd defending against wolves, pastors must wield the spiritual sword to protect those entrusted to their care.

God provides an example of this strength through His role as a good Father who protects His children, defines boundaries for their safety, and eliminates things that will do them harm. Too many Church leaders have been pacified and relinquished their God-given responsibility to fight against the lies and enemies seeking to harm their flock. Now more than ever, the Church needs her leaders to stand firm and protect God's people from the spiritual assaults that pull them away from Christ.

Reflection questions

1. How is God leading you to protect the believers in your care? What are some of the wolves that are creeping into our midst which you must fight off for the sake of the Church?
2. Being a fierce defender does not mean that we are not also to be gentle and loving. Why do you think it's important to keep those two things in balance as you lead your flock?