

I Timothy 5:17-25
Leadership in the Church

Honor is to be given (17-18)

Directing the affairs of the church well (I Thessalonians 5:12-13/Hebrews 13:17)

A work of love that brings benefit to others

Double honor: for those who preach and teach (Acts 6:2) – ***paid for their service***

Living by the Gospel (I Corinthians 9:14) – ***worthy of wages***

Loving those who instruct (Galatians 6:6) – ***sharing with those who benefit you***

Looking at the Scripture (Deuteronomy 25:4 / Luke 10:7) – ***benefit from labor***

(note: Paul considers Luke's Gospel as Scripture)

Higher Standards (19-21) – ***those in leadership: impact other people and are often attacked by the enemy***

Entertaining accusations - beware of the 3rd bullet (Nehemiah 6:13)

The enemy wants to bring disgrace through false accusations

Established by 2 or 3 (II Corinthians 13:1)

Be sure any accusation has validity from more than one source

Examples made of those who sin (James 3:1 / I Peter 5:2-3)

Public figures face public exposure of sin (different than Matthew 18)

Equity: no favoritism allowed (James 2:9)

How will this affect the church? – that is left to God, we must do what is right

Hasty in the laying on of hands? (22-25)

Eagerness is not equal to experience – Enthusiasm is not equal to maturity

Sharing in their sins: responsible for whom you put in leadership (Acts 20:28)

Shepherds are to protect the flock – they need to be strong and mature

Standards imposed: not letting freedoms in Christ be hindered (Romans 14:5)

Often young and zealous believers impose personal convictions on others

Seeing the truth: time will reveal character (Hebrews 4:12-13)

Those who practice sin cannot hide it for long periods of time

Discussion questions for I Timothy 5:17-25

What activities should characterize church leaders that they might be worthy of honor?
(I Timothy 4:12 / II Timothy 4:1-2 / Hebrews 13:7, 17) ***Serving the church well: protecting against false teaching, living as examples, and nourishing with the Word.***

Why are church leaders held to a higher standard? (I Peter 4:11 / I Timothy 4:16 / Jude 14-16 / Titus 3:10) ***They are to bring forth God's service and teaching that bring glory and honor to God. Their teaching and actions impact those they serve. They are not to fleece the flock, but ensure that we grow together in unity as we grow together in Christ.***

What are some pitfalls that church leaders often fall into? (Romans 12:3 / III John 9-10 / James 3:1) ***Pride! Thinking they are in some way superior to those they serve. Wanting first place in everything, not allowing others to exercise their gifts. Controlling all that happens within the church, fearful that others would usurp their authority or position. Forgetting that they are accountable to God for what they do and teach. Not pointing others to the true source: JESUS!***

What are some pitfalls for those who are under leadership? (I Timothy 2:5 / Hebrews 13:17) ***Putting leaders on a pedestal. Looking to the leader rather than to Jesus. Becoming critical of little things and seeking to make the leaders job more difficult – perhaps because of their own insecurity.***

Why is it important to not put someone into a leadership position before they are ready?
(I Timothy 3:6 / II Thessalonians 3:1-5 / II Corinthians 1:8-9) ***They can easily become conceited – thinking they must be special because of their rapid advancement into a leadership position. Often, they are not prepared to face the challenges and persecutions that come with the job. Sometimes the difficulties faced by leaders are beyond their own abilities and the immature may walk away from the faith as a result.***

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