

Respect Leaders, Don't Worship Them!

1 Timothy 5:17-25

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*¹⁷ The elders who are good leaders are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says: **Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain,** and “The worker is worthy of his wages.”¹⁹ Don’t accept an accusation against an elder unless it is supported by two or three witnesses. ²⁰ Publicly rebuke those who sin, so that the rest will be afraid. ²¹ I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels to observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing out of favoritism.*

1 Tim. 5:17-25

²² Don't be too quick to appoint anyone as an elder, and don't share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure. ²³ Don't continue drinking only water but use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses. ²⁴ Some people's sins are obvious, preceding them to judgment, but the sins of others surface^[f] later. ²⁵ Likewise, good works are obvious, and those that are not obvious cannot remain hidden.

1. Respect Leaders who Care for the Flock, v. 17,18

- “Rule” (KJV); “good leaders” (CSB) one who shepherds, guides, cares for...
- “work hard” (CSB), toil, fatigue; weary, Matt. 11:28; 1 Cor. 4:12; 15:10
- “preaching & teaching” (CSB) feeding, spiritual needs

2. Accountability and Leaders, v. 19-20

Get the facts! v. 20

- Before you accept an accusation - “*don’t accept*” (CSB); “*receive not*” (KJV) this is public condemnation (criticism), not a legal ruling from a court.
- Is there confirming testimony? Prov. 18:17; Deut. 19:15; Matt. 18:16

3. Deal Appropriately with Sin, v. 19-21

Publicly rebuke those who sin, so that the rest will be afraid... Do nothing out of favoritism.”

1 Tim. 5:20, 21

- Public Rebuke, v. 20 - Why? v. 21

Leaders are held to a higher standard

- Without Favoritism, v. 21 (Likeability; Success; etc should not influence the discipline).

4. Don't be Hasty when choosing Leaders, v. 22

“Don't be too quick to appoint anyone as an elder, and don't share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

/ Tim. 5:22

- Biblical qualifications are important (3:1-7)
- Mistakes happen when you rush

Pray, do your homework, ask question, check references, do background checks.

5. A Leaders Health is Imperative v. 23-25

²³ Don't continue drinking only water, but use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.

²⁴ Some people's sins are obvious, preceding them to judgment, but the sins of others surface later. ²⁵ Likewise, good works are obvious, and those that are not obvious cannot remain hidden. 1 Tim. 5:23-25

- Physical health, v. 23

Paul was telling Timothy “take your medicine”

- Spiritual health, v. 24-25

Do you need an Attitude check toward church Leaders?

How can you show respect to church leaders in your life?