

June 4, 2017

Show honor to pastors and leaders

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages." 1 Timothy 5:17–18 (ESV)

1. Elders and Overseer are one and the same.

Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. Acts 20:17 (ESV)

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. Acts 20:28 (ESV)

This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— Titus 1:5 (ESV)

For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, Titus 1:7 (ESV)

1. Give respect and honor to my church leaders.

2. Give double honor to those who lead well, especially to those who work hard at preaching and teaching.

3. Honor pastors and church leaders in their salary.

Properly handle accusations against pastors and leaders.

Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. 1 Timothy 5:19 (ESV)

2. If someone has a random complaint, ignore it.

I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. Romans 16:17–18 (ESV)

As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, Titus 3:10 (ESV)

3. If two or three people are concerned about the same thing, the elders should investigate.

Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips! Psalm 141:3 (ESV)

4. Leaders who persist in sin must be admonished publicly and fairly.

As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality. 1 Timothy 5:20–21 (ESV)

Appoint church leaders slowly.

Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure. (No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.) The sins of some people are conspicuous, going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later. So also good works are conspicuous, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden. 1 Timothy 5:22–25 (ESV)

5. The truth and time go hand in hand.

Conclusion

1. Honor your leaders in your church.
2. Give extra honor to church leaders that do a good job, especially to those who do the hard work of preaching and teaching.
3. Show honor to church leaders in their salary.
4. Protect your pastors and leaders from gossip and silly accusations.
5. If multiple people have the same concern the elders should investigate. If appropriate, then should encourage the leader to repent.
6. If a leader doesn't repent, rebuke them publicly, not just privately.
7. Make sure you know all the facts before you judge a leader and then judge them fairly.
8. Don't put people in positions of church leadership too quickly.



1 Timothy 5:17-25

How Should I Treat My Church Leaders?