

I Timothy

(13) Concerning Elders

1 Tim 5:17-25

17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. 18 For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages." 19 Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. 20 Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning.

21 I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.

22 Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

23 Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.

24 The sins of some men are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them. 25 In the same way, good deeds are obvious, and even those that are not cannot be hidden. NIV

How to treat the Elders...5:17-22

How should the church recognize Elders who 'rule well'? 5:17; IThess.5:12-13; Heb.13:7, 17

Is this statement indicating that some Elders do *not* preach and/or teach? 5:17; 3:2

What is the specific command of 5:18? Deut.25:4; ICor.9:9-10

What does this look like now (in today's church)?

What kind of *protective fence* is placed around the Elders? 5:19; Titus 1:5-9; Deut.19:15

To balance that, what about Elders who *continue in sin*? 5:20; Gal.2:11-14; IITim.4:2

What is the 'normal' *challenge* in these instructions? 1:3-4, 18-20; 4:12; Mt.18:15-20

So what is Paul's *firm command* to Timothy (and us)? 5:21; Mt.28:20; James 2:1

Avoiding problems with Elders...5:22-25

What instruction is now given in order to *avoid* the Elder discipline issue? 5:22a; 3:6, 10

What sobering responsibility is assumed by those appointing an Elder? 5:22b; Eph.5:11

What personal note does Paul inject here? 5:23; Titus 1:7, 3:3; Eph.5:18

When examining a man to be an Elder, keep what in mind in this judgment? 5:24

What is equally true about *good deeds* (for a potential Elder)? 5:25; 3:7; Gal.5:22-23

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How to treat the Elders...5:17-22

How should the church recognize Elders who 'rule well'? 5:17; IThess.5:12-13; Heb.13:7, 17

Consider them worthy of double honor. Especially for those who preach and/or teach.

Is this statement indicating that some Elders do *not* preach and/or teach? 5:17; 3:2

No. This is about those Elders who excel in preaching and/or teaching. Not what. How.

What is the specific command of 5:18? Deut.25:4; ICor.9:9-10

This 'double honor' includes financial support (wages). Note Elders, plurality.

What does this look like now (in today's church)?

Out of the church leadership (Elders), some are full-time or paid for their service.

What kind of *protective fence* is placed around the Elders? 5:19; Titus 1:5-9; Deut.19:15

Don't even listen to accusations against an Elder unless it's supported by 2 or 3 witnesses

To balance that, what about Elders who *continue in sin*? 5:20; Gal.2:11-14; IITim.4:2

Those Elders who continue in sin are to be publicly rebuked to invoke fear in all.

What is the 'normal' *challenge* in these instructions? 1:3-4, 18-20; 4:12; Mt.18:15-20

Timothy (like most of us...) didn't want to do the confronting! Many excuses to avoid it!

So what is Paul's *firm command* to Timothy (and us)? 5:21; Mt.28:20; James 2:1

I charge you before God, Christ Jesus, elect angels; do this w/o partiality or favoritism!

Avoiding problems with Elders...5:22-25

What instruction is now given in order to *avoid* the Elder discipline issue? 5:22a; 3:6, 10

Do not lay hands on (for Elder position) anyone hastily. That is, character is tested.

What sobering responsibility is assumed by those appointing an Elder? 5:22b; Eph.5:11

God associates us with the sins of others (Elders?) if we could have known. Watch it!

What personal note does Paul inject here? 5:23; Titus 1:7, 3:3; Eph.5:18

Timothy, add a little wine to your (impure) water. You need it for health. Medicinal.

When examining a man to be an Elder, keep what in mind in this judgment? 5:24

Some will be obviously disqualified, others will be disqualified by close inspection/works.

What is equally true about *good deeds* (for a potential Elder)? 5:25; 3:7; Gal.5:22-23

Good deeds are usually quite evident. But, sometimes closer inspection reveals them.