The Care and Feeding of Elders

Elder issues in the local church 1 Timothy 5:17-25 Chris Mueller 01-28-2018

Introduction:

#1 P

them 17-18 Honor your "higher ups"

17 The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. 18 For the Scripture says, "You SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

1 Thessalonians **5**:**12** ...brethren... appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, **13** and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work.

Ephesians 4:11-12 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:14 So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.

#2 P them 19-21 Be careful of your confrontations

19 Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses. 20 Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also will be fearful of sinning. 21 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality.

1st Unsubstantiated comments are to be

2nd Conditions must be met in order to ______ an allegation

1 Samuel **24:5** It came about afterward...David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe

James 3:1 Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.

Proverbs 6:32 The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; He who would destroy himself does it. 33 Wounds and disgrace he will find, And his reproach will not be blotted out.

2 Corinthians 7:1 ... beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Churches are to treat their Elders as responsible undershepherds

#3 P them 22-25 Be slow in your selections

22 Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily and thereby share responsibility for the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin. 23 No longer drink water exclusively, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.

1 CHARACTER that's humble:

2 FUNCTION that's proven:

3 FIT that's natural:

PICKING PRINCIPLES

24 The sins of some men are quite evident, going before them to judgment; for others, their sins follow after. 25 Likewise also, deeds that are good are quite evident, and those which are otherwise cannot be concealed.

TRUTH in TIME

Take home:

#1 You can't ignore your earthly dad,

and you can't ignore your spiritual

3 John 4 I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.

#2 God is the one who sovereignly selects your Elders,

and God is the one who sovereignly

you. Acts 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them

#3 Make certain your heart is in

2 Corinthians 5:15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

LIFE BEGINS IN CHRIST ...

QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH IN CHRIST

to Christ

- Why does God expect Christians to HONOR their elders and leaders? What does that look like? 1.
- 2. Why is paying certain elders important to the church body?
- 3. How do Christians protect their leaders? How do you stop unfounded accusations biblically?
- 4. When should a Christian confront another Christian? When should a Christian confront an elder, and how?
- 5. What are the most important principles as it relates to appointing new elders and other spiritual leaders?
- 6. What is unique about spiritual leaders, and what is unique about teaching pastors? How are they different, and why?
- 7. How can you fear God more than men this week in a more dramatic way?

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