

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for January 22-23, 2005

"Our Care for Those Who Lead"

1 Timothy 5:17-25

1. The Respect for Leaders (5:17-18)

a. Their esteem (5:17)

This verse does not distinguish some elders as "ruling elders" and others as "teaching elders." The elders that labor at teaching and preaching are a subset of the elders. All elders must teach (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9) but some give an extra effort.

b. Their earnings (5:18)

At Valley Bible, we support our church leadership by giving to the "general fund" which is distributed according to our annual budget.

2. The Rebuke of Leaders (5:19-21)

a. The prohibition (5:19)

Church leaders are particularly vulnerable to accusation because of their work to direct people. The reason for this prohibition is to protect people from false accusations.

b. The process (5:20)

If an elder refuses to repent and continues in sin, it becomes a matter for the entire church.

c. The principle (5:21)

It is imperative that church leaders are not partial. Impartiality does not mean that everyone is treated the same but that they are treated without bias.

3. The Responsibility for Leaders (5:22-25)

a. The seriousness of the responsibility (5:22)

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Those in leadership not only incur greater honor but greater judgment.

The responsibility for leadership requires us to be careful with others and with ourselves.

b. The symptoms with the responsibility (5:23)

Those in leadership may suffer physical affects and wine is a proven remedy for many ailments.

The Scripture approves of the use of substances that aid the body but it forbids the use of substances that control the mind (Ephesians 5:18).

c. The selection for the responsibility (5:24-25)

1) Choosing leaders who don't do bad deeds (5:24)

It is possible in advance to eliminate some sinful people from consideration for church leadership. It is not possible to eliminate all sinful people from church leadership.

2) Choosing leaders who do good deeds (5:25)

The good works of some potential leaders are evident but the good works of other potential leaders must be explored.

Eventually, our deeds will be made known (Matthew 7:15-23).