

MATTERS RELATING TO LEADERS IN OUR CHURCH – 1 TIMOTHY 5:17-25

As we remember the theme of this epistle—*proper conduct and order in the local church* and recall the character qualities for officers (which even includes all members) in Chapter 3, we now come to some pointed matters surrounding _____ (aka elders or bishops – Acts 20:17, 28; Eph. 4:11; Phil. 1:1; 1 Ti. 3:1; Titus 1:5-7). Although these issues specifically concern pastors, these truths can also be applied practically to deacons as well as other _____ in the church. As the old saying goes, “everything stands or falls on leadership.” This is true in government, business, schools, sports teams, organizations of any kind, the home, and in the context of today’s text it is certainly true in the local church. This morning we will learn very important things having to do with this very important leader.

1. Compensating a pastor – 1 Timothy 5:17-18

a. The scriptural expectations of a _____ pastor – verse 17

- Rules well – verse 17a

- He has a vision to develop and work out plans that succeed
- He communicates why, what and how, so the essentials are clear and understandable
- He has integrity and is honest
- He manifests humility and openly admits weakness or wrong-doing when necessary
- He is focused and single-minded
- He cooperates well with others and delegates the work
- He inspires members to attempt things they would not normally do
- He is organized and is orderly in his administration of the church’s affairs
- He is respected as a pastor, leader and administrator
- He teaches others to teach others how to grow, mature and to multiply (feeds the flock)
- As a result the church is always maturing and growing according to its ability

- Labours in the word – verse 17c

- _____, studies, memorizes, ponders, meditates upon, and writes out the scriptures
- _____ that he actually has the very word and words of God in his possession
- _____ the word and words of God

- Labours in doctrine – verse 17d

- Seeks answers to all difficult Bible topics
- Preserves and teaches all the *mysteries* in the Bible given to both the church and Israel
- Does not avoid difficult biblical texts or topics
- Always speaks about, reviews, and rethinks through any and all known doctrinal subjects
- Earnestly contends for the faith
- Trains others to earnestly contend for the faith
- Rightly divides the word of truth

Knows how to study the Bible

Knows and understands all major doctrines of the Bible

Understands how all the books of the Bible fit together

Knows and practices the theme of the Bible

Understands the basics of the times and seasons of history past, present and future (prophecy)

Regularly preaches and teaches sound doctrine

b. His reward – verses 17b, 18

- The man that fulfills these things is counted to be _____ of double honour

Double honour here is defined as financial pay (a double amount of respect is also applicable)

Not every church can afford double pay based on geography, culture, or present circumstances

If a church can afford it, he is worthy of this *extra* compensation

Ruling well and labouring in the word and doctrine takes an inordinate amount of *extra* time

He knows how much time and effort is involved so *he* determines his rate of *extra* pay

2. Disciplining a pastor – 1 Timothy 5:19-21

a. No one is to _____ an accusation against a pastor unless...

- Collaborated by two or three [reliable] witnesses *in his presence*
- Always give him the benefit of the doubt before hearing the full story

b. If the guilty party is caught in a provable sin with two or three witnesses...

- Rebuke him before the entire church

It would seem to me to require some type of special meeting beforehand with deacons and the other pastors to agree on exactly how and when to handle the issue _____

When this is made public it would certainly cause the simple to beware – Prov. 19:25

He may be asked to resign or he may be reinstated... the scripture is open-ended

This procedure also includes his accusers if they are proven to be false witnesses

- When doing this you had better _____ show partiality to any one man

Whether or not he is your long-time friend or someone you have personal issues with, treat everyone with the same fairness and judgmental spirit

This is obviously a serious matter as we are charged to observe it before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels

Elect angels – Mt. 28:2-6; Lk. 1:19, 26-38; Heb. 1:13-14; 1 Peter 1:12... *non-elect angels* – Rev. 19:10; 22:8-9; Gen. 6:1-7; Ps. 82; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Rev. 12:4-8

3. Selecting a pastor – 1 Timothy 5:22-25

a. Do not ordain any man before making sure he is _____

- You share in the responsibility for the sins he may commit in his future service to the local church, the ministry in general, the individual members, and the Lord
- That you keep yourself _____

b. A surprise insert – verse 23

- Could it be???

c. Be careful in our pastoral selections...

- While some men's sins are open and easy to judge, others are _____
- Do not rule a good man out—most good works are openly witnessed, while some may not be readily seen; sooner or later they will be