

How to Honor Elders

I Tim. 5:17-25

Elders who work hard deserve to be provided for. 17,18

- ❖ Their job description, 17a: *Rule, manage, direct*, 3:4,5, I Thess. 5:12,13
- ❖ Their work compensation, 7b-18: All should be able to teach (3:3), but a sub-group that works hard at preaching/teaching should receive *double honor* = \$, see 5:3), cf. Deut. 25:4, Lk.10:7, I Cor. 9:9, Gal. 6:6.

Elders who are accused of sin deserve impartial treatment. 19-25

- ❖ Don't quickly believe in an accusation. 19: slander and criticism is to be expected so multiple witnesses are imperative, Deut. 19:15-17.
- ❖ Don't show partiality to anyone. 20,21: See Matt. 18:15-17 for a need for public rebuke if no change. The purpose of public rebuke is always remedial, but stated purpose here = to discourage others from sinning. Partiality is frequently a huge problem, thus a solemn charge against it. How has partiality damaged the church today?
- ❖ Don't hurry to judge one's spirituality. 22,24,25: Being hasty to accept someone for leadership (*lay hands*, Acts 6:6, 13:3) makes one responsible to some degree for their sins. Determining a leader's spirituality isn't always easy because both sinfulness and spirituality can be less obvious at first; thus the need to be in no hurry to appoint leaders without going through the qualifications back in 3:1ff. plus . . .
- ❖ Don't be limited to just water. 23: Question: Why the sudden word about wine, and furthermore, why didn't Paul just heal Timothy? This, of course, is not an endorsement of social drinking, but simply some medicinal advice.



WHAT CHURCH ELDERS DESERVE