

**Getting Started:**

How do you find yourself interacting with the leadership God has placed in your life? Is your tendency more towards honoring, trusting, and submitting to leadership at church/work/home/etc. or do you find it easy to be critical of those leading?

**1a) Elders in our church are: Worthy of Honor or Double Honor (17-18)**

In this passage Paul talks about elders who serve well being worthy of double honor. What does it mean to give double honor to these elders?

Paul highlights the elders who “labor” over preaching and teaching as especially worthy of double honor. Why do you think God made a special point of this in His Word?

Read Hebrews 13:17. This passage tells us that it is actually to our advantage for our leaders to have joy in serving us. How can we continue to create a culture where our pastors and elders shepherd out of an overflow of joy? How is their joyful leadership of us advantageous for us as a church?

What is one practical thing this week we as a small group can do to give honor to the pastors and elders who lead the church?

**1b) Elders in our church are: Not to be accused lightly (19)**

Paul writes that elders are to be given protection from accusations by laying out a need for 2-3 witnesses. Why is it important for us, as the church, to understand the seriousness of an accusation against an elder?

**1c) Elders in our church are: Subject to great accountability (20-21)**

God is adamant about the purity of his church and he speaks some strong words on how to handle elders who persist in sin. Why does God call for elders persisting in sin to be rebuked before all?

Based on the passage, what are some of the intended outcomes of this public rebuke for the rest of the church and elders?

**1d) Elders in our church are: To be chosen slowly and carefully (22-25)**

We have read about the seriousness of an accusation against an elder and the heaviness of how to handle an elder who persists in sin. God commands us to “not lay hands on too quickly.” Why is God passionate about us being slow and deliberate to appoint elders?

Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7. These qualifications are to be observed in a man over a period of time. Why does God want men called to be elders “time-tested?” How do verses 24-25 speak to this issue?

**God calls us not only to honor the elders in the church but he also calls us to honor the leadership in our workplace.**

**2a) The leaders in our workplace are: Worthy of honor.**

According to this passage, there is a greater purpose in honoring the leadership at work that goes beyond the advancing of our career or our reputation at work. What is the end goal of honoring our leaders at work that we see in the second half of verse 1?

How is the name of God and the teaching reviled if we don't honor the authority over us whether it is at work/school/etc.?

Why does Paul make special mention to not be disrespectful to believing masters? Based on this passage, how are we to work for believing bosses? Why are we to work all the harder for believing bosses?

On a practical note, what can you do this week to honor your boss/employer? If you don't have a work setting, how can you honor an authority figure you may have in your life in a practical way this week?