



Don't Muzzle Your Ox
1 Timothy 5:17-20
May 23, 2021
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this sermon we are commanded to relate appropriately to the pastor-elders assigned to us by God.

The Text: 1 Timothy 5:17-20

¹⁷ Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages." ¹⁹ Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁰ As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.

- 1) God commands every Christian to think and act properly toward their pastor-elders (vv. 17-18).

- 2) One practice to avoid in the treatment of pastor-elders is false accusations or slander (v. 19).

- 3) Pastor-elders who are found in sin should be publicly rebuked and removed from office (v. 20).

Response

This text directs us to understand and respond rightly to the office of pastor-elder in the local church.

So how should we respond to this text?

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| (1) Know your elders | (3) Pray for your elders |
| (2) Honor your elders (see Heb 13:17) | (4) Hold your elders accountable |

Lay Elders:
Ed Titcomb (chair)
Ed Kipp
Bryan Ott
Brad Schreiner

Lay Elders:
Doug Juhlin
Neal Neyer
Tom Whitford

Staff Elders:
Mickey Klink
Greg Lynas
Casey Ehlers

Elders in Training (EIT's)
Marshall Newhouse
Olle Larson

Sunday Text Questions for 1 Timothy 5:17-20 (“Entrusted to You” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: What does it mean to honor someone?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) What does Paul mean when he commands Christians in v. 17 to consider pastor-elders “worthy of double honor?”
- 4) Why is this double honor especially for those “who labor in preaching and teaching” (v. 17)?
- 5) How do the two Scripture references in v. 18 help explain the command in v. 17?
- 6) What is the main concern Paul is addressing in v. 19 when he prohibits false charges against pastor-elders?
- 7) How might slander, gossip, and undue criticism fall under the prohibition in v. 19?
- 8) How can a local church practice what v. 20 expects regarding holding pastor-elders accountable for clear and obvious sins?
- 9) In a day when pastors (and priests) have had explicit and graphic moral failures, what practices can a church employ to guard against such sinful abuses?
- 10) What are one or two things you can do to encourage or support your pastor-elders?

Further study this week: Passages on the office of pastor-elder: Hebrews 13:17 (Mon); 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (Tues); 1 Corinthians 9:14 (Wed); Jeremiah 3:15 (Thurs); 1 Peter 5:1-4 (Fri).