



**1 Timothy 5:17-25**  
**The Treatment of Elders**

*by Eric Douma*

October 6, 2019

**Preachers Must Be Paid**

**1 Timothy 5:17-18**

The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of **double honor**, **especially** those who work hard at preaching and teaching. **18** For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

1

**Double Honor?**

**1 Corinthians 9:7-9**

Who at any time serves as a soldier **at his own expense**? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit of it? Or who tends a flock and does not use the milk of the flock? **8** I am not speaking these things according to human judgment, am I? Or does not the Law also say these things? **9** For it is written in the Law of Moses, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX..."

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

2

**How to Discipline an Elder**

**1 Timothy 5:19-20**

Do not receive an accusation against an elder except **on the basis of two or three witnesses**. **20** Those who continue in sin, **rebuke in the presence of all**, so that the rest also will be fearful of sinning.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

3

### Refuting Sin and Error

- People engaged in private sin should be approached privately at first (Matt. 18:15).
- Public sin should be dealt with publically (Gal. 2:11-14).

Sin should be dealt with in the arena it was perpetrated.

### Equal Treatment for Believers

#### 1 Timothy 5:21

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these principles **without bias**, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality.

### Solidarity and Responsibility

#### 1 Timothy 5:22

**Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily** and thereby share responsibility for the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin.

### Concern for Timothy's Health

#### 1 Timothy 5:23

No longer drink water exclusively, but **use a little wine** for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.

## Deeds Reveal True Character

### 1 Timothy 5:24-25

The **sins of some men are quite evident**, going before them to judgment; for others, their sins follow after. 25 Likewise also, **deeds that are good are quite evident**, and those which are otherwise cannot be concealed.

## Applications

Every believer must be treated impartially and with respect. Elders must be obeyed, but they are not above Christ's law.

## Impartiality Among Believers

### James 2:9

But if you show **partiality**, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

### 1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen race, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.