

1. Intro - Context of 1 Timothy & church family
 - a. Timothy finds himself surrounded by false teachers - "what am I to do?"
 - b. True widows vs. false widows → those who deserve care vs. those who deserve rebuke and correction
 - c. There are also true elders vs. false elders → Good pastors vs. Bad pastors
 - i. What do you do about them?
 - d. How do you know if I am doing my job? When do you need to take out the big stick and smack me? If I am doing my job, how do you care for me?
2. [17] *Let the elders who rule [lead] well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.*
 - a. Context primarily refers to full-time pastors (though a good principle for all leadership, staff, etc)
 - b. What does it mean to rule/lead well?
 - i. Jesus: don't be like Gentiles, die, serve, become the least
 1. These things don't happen in an ivory tower disconnected from ppl
 - ii. Paul: Book of 1 Timothy → gospel-centered, gospel-shaped, laborious
 1. Noun "labor" refers either to grueling manual labor or giving birth; two things we would consider hard work and great effort
 - c. **Leaders: You need more than positional authority. You need to lead well.**
 - i. ex: Don't use "God's anointed" as an excuse to be a bad pastor
 - ii. All leaders should be striving to grow in leadership (6 books/yr)
 - d. Those who lead well should be cared for. Those who don't? We'll get to them.
3. [18] *For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages."*
 - a. Imagine a hard working ox not being able to eat → what are the side effects?
 - i. hunger, weakness, distraction
 - b. Now imagine a gluttonous ox that didn't want to work, but just eat → side effects?
 - i. Fat, bloated, useless, not working
 - c. I've met people in ministry who fell into both camps (rockstars and slaves)
 - i. Rockstars: Overpay can create a rift in the congregation, elitism, impersonal, entitlement
 - ii. Slave labor: Underpay can create bitterness and a "I don't get paid for that" mentality, congregational "It's our job to keep him poor/humble" mentality
 - d. Paul quotes Jesus to say that the LABORER deserves his wages
 - i. If you aren't laboring, you don't deserve to get paid...
 - ii. If you are laboring, it makes sense to get paid
 - e. So how much money are we talking here? Well, we aren't talking about being rich
 - i. Pastors should not live above or below their congregation
 1. After all, it's not about the money (c.f. Paul)
 - ii. Comparable to similar people w/ similar resume
 - iii. Mission board: "we want you to raise enough money so that you don't lose sleep over money and can, instead, focus on ministry"

- a. So be careful (similar to true and false widows) → make sure you test before you hire a new pastor or put an elder in power. Watch out & keep yourself pure.
 - b. Test people and don't be hasty, (a long obedience sermon) b/c both good and bad works are hidden and take some time to be revealed
 - c. Oh, by the way drink some wine. What?!
 - i. False teachers were ascetics
 - ii. Paul says, "Be pure, but don't get confused or let people confuse you w/ the false teachers."
 - iii. C.F. Spain and drinking around a Muslim
7. In family we have true/false widows (deserve care/deserve rebuke) and true/false elders
- a. Good pastors lead well (what 1 Tim has been all about) and should be cared for
 - b. Bad pastors should be rebuked and disciplined in hopes that they will repent.
 - c. What does this all mean for me or for other leaders?
 - i. **I need to guard myself against sin and bad doctrine**
 - ii. **I need to constantly develop as a leader**
 - iii. **I need to stay in the Word**
 - iv. **I need to stay connected to people**
 - v. **I need to surround myself w/ godly men**
 - d. What does this mean for you?
 - i. **Pay your pastor what you think he's worth.** (People like Ginny too)
 - 1. Good workers deserve good wages
 - ii. **Respect his position even though your world doesn't value it.**
 - 1. Despite their education, pastors are viewed as believing in superstitious fairy tales by the academic community
 - 2. Despite their toil, pastors are viewed as not having a real job and having an "unmanly" job at that
 - 3. Despite their talents, pastors are viewed as not being able to cut it in the real world
 - 4. Despite their own fragile humanity, pastors are expected to have their act together at all times and any misstep is publicly displayed
 - a. from your kids to your lawn care
 - 5. The job of pastor is a joke to the majority of people
 - 6. Promise that you will respect your pastor, whoever he may be
 - iii. **Hold him accountable by surrounding him with the right people.**
 - 1. Surround him with godly men who can cheer him on, hold him accountable, pick him up when he is wounded
 - 2. Do not surround him with "yes men" who will do whatever he says
 - 3. That's not helping him, it's hurting him in the long run (ex: Mark)
 - iv. **Submit to the Word of God rightly explained.**
 - 1. Show him that his labor is not in vain.
 - e. Jesus says to me: "Bill, care for my church. Feed my sheep."
 - f. Jesus says to you, "**Care for your pastor.**"