

# HOW TO HONOR YOUR SPIRITUAL LEADERS

## 1 Timothy 5:17-25

**God's Word teaches principles for every relationship.**

**These verses help us discover four ways we can honor our spiritual leaders.**

### ➤ HONOR THEM FINANCIALLY – 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. <sup>18</sup>For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."*  
1 Timothy 5:17-18 (New American Standard Bible)

- Two things are important in leadership: Skills and Character
- Three kinds of elders:
  1. Volunteer – or "lay" elders
  2. Paid Staff – those who "direct the affairs of the church"
  3. Preacher and Teacher
- Double honor = an attitude of honor and financial support
- "honorarium" = financial support as an act of honor

*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? . . . <sup>13</sup>Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the food of the temple, and those who attend regularly to the altar have their share from the altar? <sup>14</sup>So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.* 1 Corinthians 9:7; 13-14 (NASB)

**Principle: When your leaders do well, pay them well.**

### ➤ HONOR THEM WITH FAIR TREATMENT – 1 Timothy 5:19-21

*Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses. <sup>20</sup>Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also will be fearful of sinning. <sup>21</sup>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 the spirit of partiality.* 1 Timothy 5:19-21 (NASB)

- See 1 Timothy Chapter 3 for qualifications of leaders.
- These verses help show us three things:
  1. How to guard against false accusations
  2. A process to follow when leaders disqualify themselves
  3. There is to be no partiality or favoritism within the church.

**Principle: When your leaders are criticized, treat them fairly.**

*If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. <sup>16</sup>But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED."*  
Matthew 18:15-16 (NASB)

### ➤ HONOR THEM WITH OUR EXPECTATIONS – 1 Timothy 5:22, 24-25

*Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily and thereby share responsibility for the sins of others; keep your self free from sin. <sup>24</sup>The sins of some men are quite evident, going before them to judgment; for others, their sins follow after. <sup>25</sup>Likewise also, deeds that are good are quite evident, and those which are otherwise cannot be concealed.* 1 Timothy 5:22, 24-25 (NASB)

- When appointing new elders, or restoring leaders be sure to:
  1. Don't be hasty.
  2. Give the process time.
- Integrity does not equal perfection.

**Principle: When you choose a leader, expect integrity.**

### ➤ HONOR THEM WITH ENCOURAGEMENT TO HEALTHY LIVING – 1 Timothy 5:23

*No longer drink water exclusively, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.* 1 Timothy 5:23 (NASB)

**Principle: Leaders are to be encouraged to strike a balance of purity and healthy living.**

*Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men.*  
Colossians 3:23 (NASB)