

1 Timothy
The Gospel, Godliness, and The Church
Elders: Honor, Accountability, Selection
1 Timothy 5:17-25

- Read 1 Timothy 5:17-25 and make general observations, either from what you recall from the sermon, or from what the Holy Spirit reveals to you as you read the text.
- Honor those who are called to lead the church body (vv. 17-18). Read, also, Hebrews 13:7, 17. We are not inclined to give such honor and authority to church leaders, living as we do, in a democratic society. Discuss the following points:
 - Distinguish between appropriate honor and inappropriate honor for church leaders. As part of this discussion, you might want to review the reasons (taken from the text) given below to honor elders.
 - Do you think elders and church staff members are under more intense spiritual attack than others? Why or why not?
 - Would you take time right now to pray for our elders, deacons, and staff? Mention as many by name as come to mind.
- What do you think an elder's most important responsibility is? What are some of the greatest challenges for an elder? What do you think some of the greatest joys would be, not only for elders, but for staff, deacons, ministry leaders, etc.?
- If church members are called to honor and respect elders, how can a greater accountability for elders be part of the equation?
- We will begin the process of selecting new elders and deacons after Easter. Nominations for elders and deacons will be accepted on April 12, 19, and 26. Two to three weeks – or longer – afterwards, candidates for elders and deacons will be presented to the church. From the time names are submitted, there will be a two-week period before affirmation forms are presented to members. Please pray for this entire process!

Study Notes

Thoughts and Quotes from the Sermon

Application Points from the Sermon

1. Honor those that God has called into ministry
2. Pray especially for their spiritual protection
3. Pray that God will lead our church as we appoint new elders and deacons in the coming months

Why honor elders?

- Because they are called by God
- Because they are the spiritual leaders of the flock, even though they are sheep leading sheep
- Because they wrestle with the sometimes-thin lines between truth and error
- Because they are often the targets of false accusations
- Because their responsibilities can lead to health challenges

John Stott addressing verse 20 from an overall biblical perspective: Such a public rebuke, though an effective deterrent, must be the last resort, however. It is a safe rule that private sins should be dealt with privately, and only public sins publicly. It is neither right nor necessary to make what is private public, until all other possibilities have been exhausted.

Stott, John. *The Message of 1 Timothy & Titus: Guard the Truth (The Bible Speaks Today Series)* (p. 169). (Function). Kindle Edition.

Scripture Associated with the Message

Deuteronomy 25:4 You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain.

1 Corinthians 9:8 Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? **9** For it is written in the Law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned? **10** Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. **11** If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?

Jesus speaking to his disciples as he was sending them out for ministry: Luke 10:7 And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house.

Do not brag on yourself . . . : Proverbs 27:2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth;
a stranger, and not your own lips.

. . . but encourage (even brag about?) other believers: Philippians 2:19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. 20 For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. 21 For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. 23 I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, 24 and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

25 I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, 26 for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. 27 Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. 29 So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, 30 for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”

Establishment of deacons: Acts 6:1 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. 2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” 5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus,

and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. **6**
These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

Deuteronomy 19:15 “A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of **two witnesses or of three witnesses** shall a charge be established. 16 If a malicious witness arises to accuse a person of wrongdoing, 17 then both parties to the dispute shall appear before the Lord, before the priests and the judges who are in office in those days. 18 The judges shall inquire diligently, and if the witness is a false witness and has accused his brother falsely, 19 then you shall do to him as he had meant to do to his brother. So you shall purge the evil from your midst. 20 And the rest shall hear and fear, and shall never again commit any such evil among you. 21 Your eye shall not pity. It shall be life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

James 3:1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

Matthew 10:40 “Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. 41 The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. 42 And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”