

Sermon Based Small Groups Study Questions

Keeping Leaders in their Place

1 Timothy 5:17-25

Start It: Connecting with each other

1. Do you drink wine? Why or why not?
2. Have you ever been physically effected in a negative way by your work in the church or place of employment? How did you deal with it?
3. Have you ever done a "good deed" that no one knew about? Was it ever discovered later?

Study It: Connecting with God's Word

1. [5:17-18] What three observations does Paul make concerning elders in these two verses? How does Paul support his observations? What does "double honor" mean? Paul quotes two references from Scripture in v. 18. Where do these quotes come from?
2. [5:19-20] What two charges does Paul give Timothy with regard to alleged misdeeds of an elder? Why should he be publicly exposed? Who does "others" (v. 20) refer to?
3. [5:21] What does "without partiality" (NIV) and "favoritism" (NIV) mean? Who are the "elect angels?"
4. [5:22] What is the meaning behind "laying on of hands?" Why must Timothy be so careful about who is commissioned in this way? Why is the act of "laying on of hands" so important (See [Numbers 27:23](#); for NT references see [Luke 4:40](#); [Acts 6:6;8:18](#); [Hebrews 6:1-2](#))?
5. [5:23] How do you understand this verse and why does Paul raise this issue right at this point in the passage?
6. [5:24-25] Who specifically is Paul thinking of (or is he just speaking in general) when he talks about good and evil deeds and whether or not they are visible for all to see?

Live It: Apply the Truth of Scripture

1. Why do you think that those who "work hard" (NASB) in the word in order to teach and preach should be worthy of "double honor?" Specifically, how do you honor those who preach and teach in our church? How regularly do you pray for our spiritual leadership?
2. How should a charge be brought against an elder? Do you think that in our culture today we should still expose an elder publicly? How did Paul handle this issue personally (See [Galatians 2:11-14](#))? How difficult is it for you not to show favoritism? See [Exodus 23:3](#); [Leviticus 19:15](#); [Romans 2:11](#); [Ephesians 6:9](#); and [James 2:1-3](#) on what the Bible teaches concerning favoritism.
3. What principle is Paul getting at when he says "do not share in the sins of others"? How would you apply this principle to your life?
4. Have you experienced the same observation about the visibility of good and bad deeds?