

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

SERMON OUTLINE

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“THE MAN OF GOD AND THE CHURCH OF GOD”

1 TIMOTHY 5:17-25 I Timothy Series #17

This 5th chapter of 1 Timothy has been rather interesting thus far as Paul has addressed the issues of the “Family of God” in *vs. 1-2*. Then the subject of “Caring For God’s People” in *vs. 3-16*. Now we come to this section about the office of the Pastor.

Paul has previously talked about the role of the pastor in (*3:1-7*). The New Testament uses several different words to describe the function of the same office we call, Pastor. Whether referred to as **Pastor** which means **Shepherd, Elder - referring to maturity and Bishop— meaning overseer**; they are all functions of the same office, they are one and the same and therefore used interchangeably!

It is unfortunate that word “**rule**” is used here in *V-17* to describe the pastor’s work. That word in our world implies that these men are the bosses, that they have to be obeyed, and that they are governors over the congregation. But actually, the word means “**leads or to superintend**” and it is the common word for **leadership**.

Paul has said in *V-17* that the one who is worthy of honor is the one who “labors in word and in doctrine.” The word “**labor**” means to toil or work hard.

Paul having set out the reason why pastors should be honored, he now sets out to explain how this honor is to be displayed.

I. FIRST, WE HONOR THEM BY DEEMING THEM WORTHY OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT (*vv. 17-18*)

I have to admit that I am a bit uncomfortable addressing the part of the verse that says, “let pastors (elders) who rule well be counted worthy of double honor.” A pastor who speaks to his congregation about honoring church leaders seems about as tacky as Congress voting themselves a raise.

Be that as it may, Scripture says that the church leader is to be counted worthy of double honor. But what does that mean? “**Double honor**” *V-17* can be translated “**generous pay**.” (The word *honor* is used as in “honorarium.”)

The other side of the coin is this: A pastor must never minister simply to earn money (*1 Tim. 3:3* “**not greedy for money**”). To “negotiate” with churches, or to canvass around looking for a place with a bigger salary is not

in the will of God. There is also the idea that **there is to be an attitude of honor him and his office**, as in *1 Thess. 5:12-13*.

In support of his claim that pastoral leadership should be paid, he quotes from two undeniable sources in *V-18* found in *Deut.25:5* and *Luke 10:7*.

II. SECOND, WE HONOR THEM BY DEMANDING THAT THEY BE TREATED FAIRLY. (*vv. 19-20*)

There were those in leadership in the church in Ephesus who were worthy of double honor because they did their job with integrity. However, there were others who were failing. So, Paul develops here how the offending brethren were to be disciplined.

Paul says that the church is not to “**receive**” an accusation, receive means to accept the accusation as true and accurate. No accusation against a church leader is to be considered as true unless it comes from at least two witnesses. Further *V-21 states*, “... **observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.**”

III. THIRD, WE HONOR THEM BY EXPECTING THEM TO ACT WITH INTEGRITY (*vv. 22, 24-25*)

I believe that *V-22* is talking about the ordination of Pastor’s. Timothy was instructed to not quickly or hastily lay hands on anyone. What Paul is saying here is: **BE CAREFUL WHO YOU ENDORSE!** Then in *V-24* as Paul concluded this section of his letter, he tried to stiffen Timothy’s resolve as a pastor by reminding him that sin is a serious matter. *V-25* speaks of men who serve “likewise” with “good works”.

IV. FOURTH, WE HONOR THEM BY ENCOURAGING THEM TO LIVE A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE. (*5:23*)

What is being discussed here is not the rights and wrongs of consuming alcohol as a beverage but rather that consuming of alcohol as a medicine! It was commonly believed in the ancient world that wine had important medicinal value. Paul is telling Timothy to use a little wine for his stomach problems and frequent illnesses

Obviously, Timothy was a complete abstainer from wine. The water in those days was not clean and many times not fit for drinking. There were no processing plants and purifying methods or bottled to use and drink. The unclean water could and would contribute to Timothy’s illnesses.

Notice what the word of God says, “**use a little wine**” **Guy H. King wrote**, “*Note the strange word “use,” not drink, or take, but almost as if he were to limit it to a dose; note also, only a “little,” not a lot.*” Timothy was to use the wine and not abuse the wine. He was instructed to use a little for health issues. What Paul is telling Timothy is that he needs to take care of his physical health. Remember that our bodies are the “temple of the Holy Spirit”. The Scripture says in *1 Cor. 6:19-20*.