

June 29, 2025



CHURCH

LEADERSHIP

MATTERS

Week Five:
Responsibilities
of Members

Central Church of Christ
Dalton, GA



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responsibilities of members

week five

As this series comes to a close, we want to tie off any loose ends. I want to make sure we understand that these lessons were never intended to criticize our current elders, deacons, ministers, or members. We deeply appreciate the love, sacrifice, and dedication that so many at Central continue to show week after week.

The goal of this series has simply been to help us think more intentionally about the roles we each play in the life of the church (especially in relation to those appointed as leaders).

Now that we've talked about the responsibilities of elders and deacons, it's time to ask: What is our responsibility as a church family to the people who lead us?

While elders and deacons are called to lead and serve, members are called to follow, support, and engage. The work of the church is never finished and we all have a part to play.

Here are a few simple ways we can support our leaders:

- Pray for your elders and their families by name.
- Give them the benefit of the doubt.
- Defend their reputation when others speak carelessly.
- Participate fully in the work and mission of the church.
- Let them know you appreciate them.

May God continue to bless Central with unity, wisdom, and love as we move forward together in faith. May He raise up leaders who serve with integrity and members who follow with joy. All for His glory!

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Sermon Outline

This lesson is designed to help church members understand their biblical responsibilities towards spiritual leaders.

Appreciate Your Leaders (1 Thess. 5:12-15)

- **Respect the Position** (5:12). Paul highlights those responsible for Admonishing the church community to engage in proper ethical behavior (Heb. 13:17).
- **Respect the Person** (5:13). Our willingness to submit to those who watch out for our souls isn't a blind agreement, but a Posture of appreciation (1 Tim. 5:1).
- **Respect the Mission** (5:14-15). Our respect and appreciation of elders depends, in part, upon our Engagement within the work they are called to do.

Protect Your Leaders (1 Tim. 5:17-22)

- **Honor their Work** (5:17). Rather than being targets of criticism, elders should be recognized for the valuable contributions they make to the life of the church (Gal. 6:6).
- **Be careful w/ Accusations** (5:19). Spiritual leaders should not be immune to accountability, but neither should they be vulnerable to unverified criticism (Deut. 19:15).
- **Confront Sinful behavior** (5:20). When leaders persist in sin, and the accusation is confirmed, those sins need to be publicly addressed and disciplined (Mt. 18:15-18).
- **Appoint Leaders Carefully** (5:22). Appointing leaders is a sacred responsibility that must be approached with prayer, discernment, and patience (Acts 14:23).

bible class info

Qualities Overview (Part Three)

See Supplemental Workbook

Qualities Overview

These qualities have to do with characteristics “seen by or judged by other people” (reputation) and “familial responsibilities that may help or hinder service” (family).

Reputation (little fluctuation)

BLAMELESS (1 Timothy 3:2) Free from accusations; cannot be laid hold of.

Could my reputation be justified as being unfaithful, divisive, etc.? (1 Peter 2:11–12)

WITHOUT REPROACH (Titus 1:6, 7) Unrebukable; not open to censure.

Is my integrity within the congregation unquestioned?

OF GOOD BEHAVIOR (1 Timothy 3:2) Honorable, orderly, decent, respectable.

Does my appearance and demeanor measure up to what is proper? (1 Timothy 2:2)

GOOD TESTIMONY FROM THOSE OUTSIDE (1 Timothy 3:7) Well thought of by those outside the church.

Do my friends, family, co-workers, etc., have anything negative to say about my character and integrity? (Ephesians 5:15–17)

LOVER OF WHAT IS GOOD (Titus 1:8) Loves what is right and good.

Do I disapprove of what is wrong and applaud what is right? (Romans 1:26–32)

Family (some fluctuation)

HUSBAND OF ONE WIFE (both) A one-woman man; sexually faithful and committed in marriage.

Am I faithful to my wife and abstain from sexual immorality?

CHILDREN IN SUBMISSION (1 Timothy 3:4) Children respect and obey their father.

Do my children respect and obey me—esp. under my roof?

FAITHFUL CHILDREN NOT ACCUSED (Titus 1:6) Disciplined children not in trouble or rebellion.

Are my children rebellious and unruly? (Ezekiel 18:20)

GIVEN TO HOSPITALITY (BOTH) Lover of strangers.

Do I use my home to minister to others? (Luke 14:7–14)

scripture reading

1 Timothy 5:17–22

“Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer is worthy of his wages.” Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear. I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality. Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people’s sins; keep yourself pure.” (1 Timothy 5:17–22, NKJV)

* The New King James Version. Thomas Nelson, 1982.

what's happening @ central

Upcoming Events

5th Sunday Singing - Sun, Jun 29 @ 5 PM (Ringgold)

Ice Cream Fellowship - Wed, Jul 02 @ 6:30 PM

Blood Drive - Wed, Jul 02 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

BLB Mission Trip - July 05 - July 11

Summer Series Wed @ 6:30 PM

July 09: Every man gird on his sword

MATTHEW SLOAN || RIVERBEND

July 16: But David remained at Jerusalem

TIM NELSEN || CENTRAL DALTON

July 23: David was very angry

SPENCER HALL || OCOEE STREET

ministry highlights

All-Church Devotional – Join us this **Wednesday at 6:30 PM** in the *auditorium* for a special all-church devotional. Afterward, we'll head to the *foyer* for some sweet treats!

Save the date for our **Ladies Retreat**, September 5–7, 2025, at Amicalola Falls State Park & Lodge. The theme is *Cultivating a Water-Walking Faith*. Cost is \$125 per person, and registration will be open July 6–30.



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