

Shepherds and the Sheep

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

I. Respect Your Shepherds

“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children...” **Mt 7:11.**

“When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.” **Jn 10:4**

II. Esteem Your Shepherds Highly

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.” **Phil 2:3**

“Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor...” **1 Tim 6:1**

“People should greatly value the office of the ministry, honour and love the persons of their ministers, and show their esteem and affection in all proper ways, and this for their work’s sake, because their business is to promote the honour of Christ and the welfare of men’s souls.” (Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible)

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. 18 For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer deserves his wages.’ 19 Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.” **1 Tim 5:17–19**

III. Bring Joy to Your Shepherds

“For I fear that perhaps when I come I may find you not as I wish, and that you may find me not as you wish—that perhaps there may be quarreling, jealousy, anger, hostility, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder. 21 I fear that when I come again my God may humble me before you...” **2 Cor 12:20–21**

“For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.” **3 Jn 3–4**

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.” **Heb 13:17**

“Stubborn, self-willed, and unsubmitive sheep steal the joy from their shepherds and give themselves and their leaders nothing but pain and an unprofitable relationship.” (MacArthur New Testament Commentary)