



Honoring Elders

September 20, 2026

Ice Breaker

Think of a teacher, coach, or mentor from your past who made a real difference in your life. What is one thing they did that you still remember today?

Key Verses

- 1 Timothy 5:17-21
- Deuteronomy 24:15
- Luke 10:7
- Matthew 7:24-25

Questions

- The sermon describes the local church as "the pillar and support of the truth." What does that phrase mean to you personally, and how does your involvement in a local church reflect that calling?
- Paul says pastors who work hard at preaching and teaching are worthy of "double honor," that is respect and financial compensation. Were you surprised by this teaching? Why do you think this is something many Christians resist or overlook?

- The pastor mentioned that Christians who dismiss the need for pastors and local church authority often have "dusty Bibles" and a know-it-all attitude. How can we guard our own hearts against that kind of spiritual complacency?
- When an accusation of sin is made against a pastor or elder, Paul says it should only be accepted after two or three other elders carefully investigate the accusation and find the accusation to be true. Why is this standard so important, and what can go wrong when a church ignores it?
- The sermon emphasized that God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the holy angels are present and attentive when a church deals with accusations against its leaders. How does that reality change the way you think about how seriously these matters should be handled?
- Paul warns against appointing someone too quickly for church leadership. What qualities or patterns of life do you think a church should observe over time before recognizing someone as an elder or pastor (see 1 Timothy 3)?
- The sermon closed with Jesus' teaching about building your house on the rock. In what practical ways can your small group help one another build a life that is truly founded on God's Word and will count for eternity?

Life Application

This week, take one concrete step to honor the pastors and leaders in your church. This could mean writing a note of genuine encouragement to a pastor, praying specifically for your church's elders by name each day, or having an honest conversation with yourself about whether your giving reflects the value you place on sound biblical teaching. Also, if you have been carrying a critical or dismissive attitude toward church authority, bring that before God in prayer and ask Him to replace it with a heart of respect and gratitude.

Key Takeaways

- Pastors and elders who lead well and work hard at preaching and teaching deserve both genuine respect and fair financial compensation, because God's Word consistently affirms that a laborer is worthy of His wages.
- Accusations against church leaders must be handled carefully, requiring two or three witnesses to investigate before any charge is accepted, and any confirmed sin must be addressed openly so the whole church upholds holiness.

- Churches should never rush the process of appointing new elders, because character, hidden sin, and genuine godliness all take time to observe and evaluate properly.
- The authority structure God has designed for the local church, rooted in His Word and carried out through qualified pastors and elders, is essential to the church's ability to uphold truth and help believers grow into Christlikeness.
- Pursuing godliness and spiritual maturity together as a church family is beneficial not only for this present life but also for the life to come, when every believer will stand before Jesus Christ and be rewarded for their devotion to Him.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for this time together in Your Word. You have shown us that the way Your church is ordered and led is not a small matter to You. It matters to the Father, it matters to You, and it matters to the holy angels who observe how we treat the authority You have placed among us. Forgive us for the times we have been dismissive, greedy, or proud when it comes to honoring those You have called to teach and lead. Give us hearts that are humble, generous, and eager to grow. Protect our pastors and elders, strengthen them in their study and their service, and help this church to be a true pillar and support of Your truth. May everything we do together be building a house that will stand, both in this life and in the glorious life to come when we see You face to face. In Your name we pray. Amen.