

House Rules

Functioning as the Church

Week 10: Caring for the Church and Caring for the Elders

Scripture

1 Timothy 4:6-16; 5:17-18

Motivation (Why They Need to Know It)

What were the reasons for Paul's writing?

- To confront false teachers who had infiltrated the church (1 Timothy 1)
- To establish proper conduct in the churches at Ephesus (1 Timothy 2)
- To provide qualifications for church leadership (1 Timothy 3)
- To warn those abandoning the faith (1 Timothy 4:1-5)

Information (What They Need to Know)

Paul now provides some direct words about the responsibility of Timothy in leading the churches into faithfulness.

Paul's Challenges Regarding Care for the Church...

▪ **Train to be Godly**

1 Timothy 4:7 (ESV) Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train [*train with full effort*] yourself for godliness; **8** for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

- ✓ Stay away from false and speculative teachings
- ✓ *Train* (Greek *gumnazo*) means to exercise or practice
- ✓ *Godliness* carries the idea that what one knows/learns about God will manifest itself in everyday life
- ✓ Physical training is of some benefit, but spiritual training benefits in every way

▪ **Work Hard**

1 Timothy 4:10 (ESV) For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

- ✓ **Spiritual leaders should work hard to see people mature in their faith**
 - **Salvation (believe)**
 - **Declaration (be baptized)**
 - **Sanctification (behave)**

- ✓ **Spiritual leaders should be well-compensated for their hard work**
1 Timothy 5:17 (ESV) Elders who do their work well should be respected and paid well, especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching.
“Elders who serve with greater commitment, excellence, and effort should have greater acknowledgment from their congregations. This expression does not mean such men should receive exactly twice as much remuneration as others, but because they have earned such respect they should be paid more generously.” - John MacArthur

- **Be an Example to Others (1 Timothy 4:12)**

1 Timothy 4:12 (ESV) Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

Set an example in...

- ✓ Speech (speak edifying words)
- ✓ Conduct (live well)
- ✓ Love (practice self-sacrifice)
- ✓ Faith (be faithful)
- ✓ Purity (live morally clean)

- **Remain Committed to... (1 Timothy 4:13)**

1 Timothy 4:13 (ESV) Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.

- ✓ Public Reading of Scripture (reading the Word)
- ✓ Exhortation (explaining the Word)
- ✓ Teaching (applying the Word)

Application (What They Need to Do)

Today, devoting ourselves to the Scriptures will be celebrating The Lord's Supper.

I want to call our attention to a couple things concerning the Lord's Supper...

- **Understanding**

Mark 14:22 (ESV) And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” **23** And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. **24** And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.”

- ✓ **Bread** symbolizes Christ's body, which would be given for them
- ✓ **Wine** symbolizes Christ's blood, which would be shed as payment for sin

- **Remembering**

1 Corinthians 11:24 (ESV) ...and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for [broken] for you. Do this in remembrance [as my memorial] of me.” **25** In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

- **Confessing**

1 Corinthians 11:27 (ESV) Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. **28** Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. **29** For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. **30** That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.

I’m going to give you a few minutes to search your life for sin and confess it.

[Elements will be passed throughout the auditorium]

Join me in reading Jesus’ words to His disciples at the final supper before His death.

Matthew 26:26 (NLT) As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “Take this and eat it, for this is my body.”

Let’s also remember Jesus’ blood which was shed for our sin.

Matthew 26:27 (NLT) And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, “Each of you drink from it, **28** for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many.

As we have remembered Jesus’ death on the cross for our sin, let’s close with joining our voices in worship.