

Sermon Guide and Discussion Questions

The Importance of Godly Elders – 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Sermon Outline

1. Introduction – quotes about this passage
2. The Roles of Godly Elders
3. The Qualifications for Godly Elders
4. The Responsibilities We All Have
5. Conclusion – we need to pray for God to keep raising up godly elders and pastors

Scripture Passages Referenced

- Acts 20 – the terms elder, overseer, and pastor are used interchangeably
- Acts 2:46 - And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts...
- Romans 12:13 - Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.
- 1 Thessalonians 2:8 – ...we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.
- 1 Timothy 5:17 - Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.
- 1 Timothy 5:22 - Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands...

Discussion Questions

- What initially comes to mind when you read this passage on qualifications for elders?
- Why do you think we are so prone to equate worldly leadership with godly leadership?
- What are the differences between worldly leadership and godly leadership?
- How does Paul show the importance of elders and pastors in verse one?
- Is it wrong to aspire to leadership in the church? Why or why not?
- What could make it wrong to desire leadership in the church?
- Why do you think Paul says an elder should be hospitable?
- No matter what your role in the church is, how can you grow in practicing hospitality?
- What does it mean that an elder is able to teach? Why is this important?
- Why is it critical to realize that God is not concerned with ability and personality but rather character?
- How can ungodly character undermine the mission and reputation of Christ's church?
- Which of the character traits mentioned stand out to you the most? Why?
- Given your role in the church, how does this passage apply to you?
- How does this passage challenge you to deepen your prayer life?
- In what ways does this passage give you hope for this church and all churches?