

Sermon study 1 Timothy 5:17-25 “Double Honor”

Use this outline as a guide. You can talk about it a different way if you like but whatever you do make sure the depth of this study is depth of APPLICATION. Do not make it your goal to get sidetracked determining the meaning. The goal is to move forward from the message into actual real life and specific application. Be creative and follow up about application. Imagine a church where the people actually applied what they learned. Wow.

The problem this sermon addresses

Read Numbers 12:1-15 and 16:1-5, 16-35. Notice that we are just like them. Everyone wants to be a leader. No one feels accountable as a follower. Read the following article and discuss: http://www.worldmag.com/2012/02/can_everyone_be_a_leader

The way I see it, is that because everyone of us thinks we are a leader, we don't feel any urgency to actually follow. We can pursue our own unique brand of spirituality in our own way. What we look for is better methods and manuals for this journey. Sure we have kept room for men of God but we have made them into a commodity; like our methods and manuals. But men are not a commodity. You are not responsible to care for your method. It exists for you alone and requires nothing to be used.

CPT: But God does not use methods to lead His church - He uses men. Men that need provision and protection and who are taken seriously in their role.

Main Idea:

You are responsible for your pastors.

Pay them properly. Protect them personally, rebuke them publicly and choose them wisely.

I. Pay Them Properly (1 Timothy 5:17-18)

A. Paul transitions from his section about widows and begins to talk about the proper care and feeding of pastors. Of note is the fact that the first part of this chapter sees Paul attempting to limit the financial aide going to widows and immediately after that speaks about increasing aide for pastors. This is a significant emphasis on the fact that the church exists to make ministers not ministries.

1. According to Warren Weirsbe:

a) “Double honor” (1 Tim. 5:17) can be translated “generous pay.” (The word honor is used as in “honorarium.”) It is God’s plan that the needs of His servants be met by their local churches; and He will bless churches that are faithful to His servants. If a church is not faithful, and its pastor’s needs are not met, it is a poor testimony; and God has ways of dealing with the situation. He can provide through other means, but then the church misses the blessing; or He may move His servant elsewhere.

b) The other side of the coin is this: A pastor must never minister simply to earn money (see 1 Tim. 3:3). To “negotiate” with churches, or to canvass around looking for a place with a bigger salary is not in the will of God.

(1) Look up Acts 28:10; 1 Corinthians 9:5–14 and Galatians 6:6. Identify the contribution each passage makes to the principle of financial support for men in ministry.

(a) Most people have no idea how a pastor should be paid. Here is an article that is worth a read (for general knowledge):

i) <http://www.ministrymaker.com/churchs-responsibility-to-its-pastor/>

ii) I would like to take a moment and thank each of you who support me. Your generous giving has enabled me to spend time doing what I consider to be the most exciting thing in the world. I am forever grateful. This sermon is a pat on the back to you-

2. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7. These are the requirements of elders/pastors. God obviously takes this role seriously.

a) Read 1 Timothy 3:15 and 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13. Why does God take the role of pastor so seriously?

b) Read 1 Timothy 4:7-16 and Hebrews 13:17. Based on these verses what is the pastors' job description?

II. Protect Them Personally (1 Timothy 5:19)

A. Paul exhorts the Ephesians to protect pastors from the snipes of the devil that come through gossip and slander. A good rule of thumb is that if there are not two witnesses ignore it and think the best about your pastor. If there are two or more witnesses then its time to investigate and approach him. The bottom line is that the congregation must protect their pastor even while he warns and protects them.

1. Read Numbers 35:30, Deuteronomy 17:6 and 19:15. Notice that even ordinary people, even murderers, are to be given this common respect. If we are called to protect one another and murderers from false charges, how much more should we protect our pastors? The elders' public position makes them more vulnerable than others to hostility and false accusations. And if such a charge were believed, it would hinder their effectiveness.

2. Read 1 Samuel 24:1-7. How are these verses relevant to the sermon?

III. Rebuke Them Publicly (1 Timothy 5:20)

A. Paul then tells them that the elders who do not listen to the rebuke and who refuse to repent are to be rebuked publicly. Persisting in sin is an unrepentant attitude. Their office is public. Their care reflects on you but so must their rebuke. Taking their role seriously means confronting real sin if it arises. As a pastor, this is what we signed up for. There should be fear and trembling in this task.

1. Read James 3:1-2. How might 1 Timothy 5:20, reflect the stricter judgment spoken of in James 3:1-2?

2. Read Galatians 2:11-14. Why did Peter need to be rebuked publicly?

3. Read 3 John 9-10. Should pastors be called out by name?

4. Read Acts 5:1-14. What is the benefit of fear in the church?

IV. Choose Them Wisely (1 Timothy 5:21-25)

A. Paul ends essentially telling Timothy to choose wisely who he picks to be a pastor. For us today we must choose wisely who we put ourselves under. They are in a very prominent role in God's plan. They are to be greatly rewarded and greatly protected. When they do well the whole church benefits. When they fail they do so publicly and many can be hurt.

1. Read Nehemiah 13:4-14. Why did the ministers leave?

a) I believe we are putting the wrong men in charge. Take a look at these statistics from the Schaeffer Research Institute:

b) Fifteen hundred pastors leave the ministry each month due to moral failure, spiritual burnout, or contention in their churches.

c) Fifty percent of pastors' marriages will end in divorce.

d) Eighty percent of pastors feel unqualified and discouraged in their role as pastor.

e) Fifty percent of pastors are so discouraged that they would leave the ministry if they could, but have no other way of making a living.

f) Eighty percent of seminary and Bible school graduates who enter the ministry will leave the ministry within the first five years.

- g) Seventy percent of pastors constantly fight depression.
 - h) Almost forty percent polled said they have had an extra-marital affair since beginning their ministry.
 - i) Seventy percent said the only time they spend studying the Word is when they are preparing their sermons (This is Key).
 - (1) <http://www.intothyword.org/apps/articles/default.asp?articleid=36562>
2. So where are the men of God to lead the church? Perhaps we have kicked them out. Perhaps we have housed methods and manuals in the place of men, and God has gone with them.
- a) David Wells said it this way:
 - (1) The fundamental problem in the evangelical world today is not inadequate technique, insufficient organization, or antiquated music; those who want to squander the church's resources bandaging these scratches will do nothing to stanch the flow of blood that is spilling from its true wounds. The fundamental problem in the evangelical world today is that God rests too inconsequentially upon the church. His truth is too distant, his grace is too ordinary, his judgment is too benign, his gospel is too easy, and his Christ is too common.
 - (a) (David F. Wells. *God in the Wasteland: The Reality of Truth in a World of Fading Dreams* (Kindle Locations 401-403). Kindle Edition.)

Implication:

A church is only as healthy as its pastor. We pastors are God's oxen; God's slaves. He has given us to you; to feed you with the Word to be your example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity...in godliness. And you are responsible to care for us.

Let me make this more real to you.

--> I will answer to God personally for each and every one of you, for how I have cared for you as your pastor. You will answer to God personally, each and every one of you, for how you have cared for me.

Discuss practical and personal application.
(I will give you one...take prayer seriously)