**God’s Design for the Church (1 Timothy)**

**Living as Servants Part 1**

**1 Timothy 5:17-25**

**Recap:**

* **Finish Chapter 1**
* **Finish Chapter 2**
* **Finish Chapter 3**
* **Finish Chapter 4**
* **Family Matters Part 1 (1 Timothy 5:1-2)**
* **Family Matters Part 2: (1 Timothy 5:3-16)**
	+ **We care for people**
	+ **We appeal to the lost and invite them into the faith.**
	+ **We give sacrificially to help those in need**
	+ **We continue to provide care for believers in need.**
* **Read 1 Timothy 5:17-25**
* **The Big Idea for the passage is how we should recognize servant leaders specifically in this passage Elders and how we need to be careful not to hastily enlist people for leadership.**
1. **Recognition of Excelling Elders (vv. 17-18)**
	1. **Double Honor Deserving to those Who Excel**
		1. **“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor.”**
		2. **This work of oversight is the main function of the elders (3.4-5). Term “Elder” “Bishop”, “Pastor”-all refer to the same group of individuals.**
		3. **“Rule” does not mean lord it over; simply refers to leadership and oversight.**
		4. **The Work of the elder must not be taken for granted by the congregation. Evaluation must be made and when real excellence appears, it should be recognized and commended.**
		5. **Based on Working Hard to Proclaim the Word**
		6. **“especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.”**
	2. **Double Honor involves Respect and in some cases Remuneration.**
		1. **“You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain, and, “The laborer deserves his wages.”**
		2. **We should give respect to our leaders. And this goes for all leaders of the church not just elders.**
2. **Rebuking of Erring Elders (vv. 19-21)**
	1. **Protection Against Frivolous Accusations**
		1. **“Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.”**
		2. **Practically speaking, how is this possible without gossip and trying to enlist others to come with you?? Does this mean two or three coming to the elder board independently or at the same time?**
		3. **“These witnesses are not thought of as appearing at the trial, but rather at the time when disciplinary process is first contemplated. Unless the evidence is sufficient and practically certain, no action should be initiated against an elder. This safeguard of the elder is a wise one. No person is more subject to Satan’s attack in the form of gossip and slander than God’s servant.”**
	2. **Public Rebuke when Necessary**
		1. **Necessitated by Stubborn Rebellion**
		2. **“As for those who persist in sin.”**
		3. **Shows there is opportunity given for them to repent**
		4. **Requires Public Rebuke**
		5. **“rebuke them in the presence of all.”**
		6. **Must be a reference to the entire church, since the other elders are the ones administering the rebuke.**
		7. **“Leaders are to be examples to God’s people of the beauty of virtue. But when they fail, they become examples of the ugliness of sin. So when a leader sins, it becomes a very serious concern for the church. The church must face up squarely to the fact that the one who was expected to be a model of godliness has become just the opposite, so he must be rebuked in front of those to whom he was a poor example. What an awesome responsibility leadership is!”**
		8. **Protects the Other Elders (and the Flock) Against Sinning.**
		9. **“so that the rest may stand in fear."**
		10. **Primarily the other elders are in view. Abuse of the office is always a potential. Elders can wrongly think that they are above God’s Law.**
		11. **Also, has application to the entire flock**
	3. **Partiality Outlawed in Every Case**
		1. **Seriousness of the Procedure**
		2. **“In the Presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels”**
		3. **Impartiality Commanded “I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging.”**
		4. **Partiality Outlawed “doing nothing from partiality.”**
3. **Restraint in Enlisting Elders**
	1. **Caution: Don’t be too Quick to Ordain an Elder or appoint leaders.**
		1. **Warning Against Ordaining elders too quickly**
		2. **“Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands,”**
		3. **Culpability- “nor take part in the sins of others”**
		4. **Responsibility for Personal Purity- “keep yourself pure.”**
	2. **Aside: Holiness Does not Require Unwise Asceticism**
		1. **“No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.”**
		2. **We must be careful of how we use our own self disciplines on others.**
	3. **Explanation: Cautious Examination over Time will Reveal the Truth.**
		1. **Sins will eventually be Evident**
		2. **“The sins of some people are conspicuous, going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later**
		3. **Good Works will eventually be Evident**
		4. **“So also good works are conspicuous, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden.”**

**Conclusion: What is the Application**

1. **Serve Well**
2. **Hold Each Other Accountable**
3. **When it comes to Spiritual Matters and Ministry Leaders never be hasty**