

TWO PRIORITIES FOR CHURCH LONGEVITY

Chris Martin / May 5, 2024 / 1 Timothy 5:17-21



Week of May 5, 2024

_____ Godly _____ (17-19)

_____ for the _____ (17-18)

_____ against _____ (19)

_____ Godly _____ (20-21)

_____ Confront Unrepentant _____ (20)

_____ Maintain God's _____ (21)

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Why do you think 1 Timothy 5:17 entrusts the direction of the church to a group of elders rather than the congregation as a whole?

- What are the practical advantages?
- What are the spiritual advantages?

3. (17-18) The elders of VBC consist of staff pastors and what might be called "lay elders." What pressures do you think our elders face? Are they in any way different from a secular job or serving on the board of a corporation? If so, how?

- Besides financial remuneration, what are other ways elders can be shown honor?
- What is the principle of verse 18? Give an example of how this works out in real life.

4. (19-20) How should you approach a church leader when you disagree with them?

- When should you be able to speak to them on your own, and when should you involve others?
- What is the difference between disagreeing with an elder and "an accusation"?
- How does our text guard against unsubstantiated allegations?
- What do you think is appropriate as a public rebuke of an unrepentant elder?

5. Those in leadership will always undergo some amount of criticism, and they will sometimes disappoint you. When do you give them the benefit of the doubt? Why should you?

6. Can you think of some examples of when wrongdoing by a leader was covered up? Why would this be particularly egregious in the church?

7. (Verse 21) Regarding partiality, think of the rich and the poor, those with power and authority and those with none—how can partially work both ways?

8. Three questions to take home:

- Can I pray for and encourage my elders?
- Can I speak the truth in love?
- Can I trust God above man?