

1 Timothy 5:19-25

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How should a church respond when an elder is overtaken in sin?

I. Sinning elders must be corrected publicly and without partiality (19-21)

A. Requires due process (19)

B. Requires a public rebuke when guilt is found (20)

C. Requires our obedience, avoid prejudging and partiality (21)

II. Selecting elders requires wisdom and confidence in God's justice (22-25)

A. A pointed call (22)

B. A personal word (23)

C. A proverbial truism (24-25)

Sermon Study Guide

(Reminder: The purpose of the questions is to explore the text and themes of the sermon. **Do not feel a need to go through all of the questions.**

The goal is to stimulate discussion/reflection and transformation related to the sermon text and themes.)

1. Why should a church have a process for elder accountability in place before an accusation arises? Where did Paul get the idea of having 2-3 witnesses before entertaining an accusation against a leader? Where does this threshold appear in the Scripture?
2. Why does Paul demand that such correction takes place in front of the entire congregation? Paul hints at two outcomes from such correction, what are they? Why did Paul invoke the presence of Father & Son, and the angels when calling the church to act without partiality?
3. The church is called to care for leaders who are leading well AND to correct sinning leaders, do you default to caring well or correction? Discuss why its challenging to show double honor and bring correction when necessary. Why is Paul's admonition "keep yourself pure" so appropriate given the context of correcting sinning leaders (cf. Gal. 6:1b)?
4. Discuss the wisdom of vv. 24-25 in selecting elders and watching elders. Are first impressions reliable? What do vv. 24-25 reveal as an inevitable truth for every person regarding good works and evil actions? How does the gospel deliver us from the penalty of our sin? Does the gospel deliver us from the consequences of our sin?