Instruction on Elders

1 Timothy 5:17–21
Instruction on Elders

- Financial support of elders
Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.”
7 Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?

8 Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same?  

9 For it is written in the Law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned?

10 Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop.
11 If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? ... 13 Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? 14 In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.
Luke 10:7 (ESV)

7 And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house.
Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.”
Objections to Paying Elders

- The honor we owe elders is personal respect, not money
7 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.
The honor we owe elders is personal respect, not money.

We already pay the preacher. We can’t afford to pay the elders, too.
Objections to Paying Elders

- The honor we owe elders is personal respect, not money.
- We already pay the preacher. We can’t afford to pay the elders, too.
- Our elders have no need or desire to get paid for their spiritual labors.
1 Corinthians 9:11–15 (ESV)

11 If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? 12 If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. ...15 But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision.
Instruction on Elders

- Financial support of elders
- Correction of erring elders
19 Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. 20 As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.
Matthew 18:15–17 (ESV)

15 “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.
19 Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. 20 As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.
Instruction on Elders

- Financial support of elders
- Correction of erring elders
- Warnings regarding actions toward elders
  - Don’t show favoritism
In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality.
Acts 6:1 (ESV)

1 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.
1 Timothy 5:21–25 (ESV)

21 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality.
Instruction on Elders

- Financial support of elders
- Correction of erring elders
- Warnings regarding actions toward elders
  - Don’t show favoritism
  - Be deliberate and careful
1 Timothy 5:21–25 (ESV)

22 Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure.... 24 The sins of some people are conspicuous, going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later. 25 So also good works are conspicuous, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden.
Acts 6:5–6 (ESV)

5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.

6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.
Acts 13:2–3 (ESV)

2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” 3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.
1 Timothy 5:21–25 (ESV)

22 Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure. 24 The sins of some people are conspicuous, going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later. 25 So also good works are conspicuous, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden.
Instruction on Elders

- Financial support of elders
- Correction of erring elders
- Warnings regarding actions toward elders
  ◦ Don’t show favoritism
  ◦ Be deliberate and careful
Plan of Salvation

- Believe
- Repent
- Confess
- Be Baptized
- Live Faithfully