

# The Christian's Responsibilities to Elders

# Responsibilities to Elders

- Give due consideration in appointing them

# 1 Timothy 5:22 (NKJV)

Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.

## 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 5:22 (ESV)

**22** Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure

# Responsibilities to Elders

- Give due consideration in appointing them
- Submit to them

# 1 Peter 5:5 (NKJV)

Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

# Hebrews 13:17

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

# Responsibilities to Elders

- Give due consideration in appointing them
- Submit to them
- Honor them

# 1 Thessalonians 5:12–13

And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, **13** and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

# Responsibilities to Elders

- Give due consideration in appointing them
- Submit to them
- Honor them
- Benefit from their teaching and example

# The Elders' Teaching and Example

**Hebrews 13:7** - Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

**1 Peter 5:2–3** - Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers ...**3** ... being examples to the flock;

## Ephesians 4:11–13 (NKJV)

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, **13** till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

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- Give due consideration in appointing them
- Submit to them
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- Benefit from their teaching and example
- Labor peacefully under their oversight

# Labor Peacefully Under their Oversight

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# Responsibilities to Elders

- Give due consideration in appointing them
- Submit to them
- Honor them
- Benefit from their teaching and example
- Labor peacefully under their oversight
- Give them double honor

# 1 Timothy 5:17–18 (ESV)

**17** Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. **18** For the Scripture says, **“You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,”** and, **“The laborer deserves his wages.”**

# 1 Corinthians 9:7–14 (ESV)

**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.

# 1 Corinthians 9:7–14 (ESV)

**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.

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# Objections to Paying Elders

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- 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.

# Responsibilities to Elders

- Give due consideration in appointing them
- Submit to them
- Honor them
- Benefit from their teaching and example
- Labor under their oversight
- Give them double honor
- Correct them, if needed, in a scriptural way

# 1 Timothy 5:19–20 (ESV)

**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.

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