

1 **In 1 Timothy 5:17, Paul refers to men who “labor” in preaching and teaching, and the word there means strenuous, wearisome toil.** What current cultural factors discourage hard work in preaching and teaching?

♥ *How have you seen the value of preaching in your own life? Praise God for both specific instances and the long term effect of regularly hearing His word preached.*

♥ *What is most holding you back right now from receiving the ministry of the word well?*

2 **What evidence marks a man as an elder who rules well?** In 1Tim. 5:17 is Paul specifying two different kinds of elders (i.e., ruling and teaching elders)? How do you arrive at your conclusion?

🗨️ *What is appropriate appreciation and honor for leaders of the church?*

⚙️ *Paul specifically mentions pastoral compensation in 1 Timothy 5:18. How might the pastor’s salary be a reflection on the church’s view of God’s Word?*

♥ *What do you think Paul would say about the way GGC cares for its elders? What are some positive examples of biblical “honor” you’ve seen here at Gospel Grace?*

3 **Why is it important to have a process for accountability for leaders in place before and accusation arises?** Discuss the wisdom of requiring two or three witnesses before entertaining an accusation against a leader.

🗨️ *Can you think of a scenario where this requirement might actually delay justice? What recourse can a believer have in that instance?*

♥️ *What confidence can a believer have when dealing with problems (even ones that may not immediately be handled)?*

4 **Why is the exhortation to “keep yourself pure” in 1 Timothy 5:22, appropriate in this context of dealing with sinning leaders?** (See also Gal. 6:1, Matt. 7:3-5).

⚙️ *In what ways are evil deeds and good deeds alike according to 1 Tim. 5:24-25?*

⚙️ *What does our passage teach us about the reliability of first impressions? How should this practically impact our selection of elders?*

🗨️ *How could the church be affected when unqualified leaders are appointed?*

5 **According to 1 Timothy 5:22, 24-25, character takes time to develop.** Like a soup that needs time to simmer in order for the flavor to fully develop, so a person’s character cannot be developed in one instant of obedience or a short season of zealous intention. What implications does that have on your own life and your priorities in your walk with God?

♥️ *What does it look like when a person forgets the importance of character or that character takes time to develop?*

♥️ *What aspects of character do you sense God growing in you or in need of development in you? Pray together as a group for these areas.*