



Unit 11 Guide

SERIES: LESSONS FROM THE CHURCH **THE RESPECT FOR GOD'S CHURCH LEADERS** **1 Timothy 5:17-6:2**

Announcements and opening prayer.



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** Aretha Franklin sang, "R-E-S-P-E-C-T, Find out what it means to me...I expect a little respect when you get home baby!" What are some of the ways we give respect?

Transition: It is easy in our human nature to resent people who hold power over us, who can tell us what to do. This passage deals with that very part of our human nature

LESSON PLAN



Denotes "Apply"

Read 1 Timothy 5:17-20

The Bottom Line: God expects the church to honor the Shepherds

John Phillips points out in his commentary on Timothy that Paul makes it clear that the local church is not a democracy where action is decided by the majority. The church belongs to Jesus' Christ and we are invited to His kingdom and domain. The church is a monarchy with Christ as the Head and the Holy Spirit as the Executor of the estate. The Holy Spirit raises up elders who are to make decisions as they lead by the Word of God to bring honor and glory to Jesus seeing that it keeps the main thing the main thing for Jesus!

1. What qualification is placed upon the honor due the elders who direct the church?
- 🌐 (list on board) What are some of the needs of the people in the church?
- 🌐 What could they do well to see that these needs are met?
2. What was double honor and why was it especially important that those whose work is preaching and teaching are to receive it?

Many commentators believe that those whose work is preaching and teaching, their vocation would point to someone who was the preacher and a shepherd or elder. Not all preachers need to be elders. Their focus is study and relationships. Some have been gifted as visionary thinkers and wise shepherds as well as good communicators. These would be worthy of double honor. Notice they must do their role WELL. This may very well have meant that they should not only be an elder and paid respect as such, but also paid financially for their preaching. This has been disputed over the years. Some think the preacher should not be an elder but this seems to indicate that it was sometimes acceptable and even preferable. We do know that John was a preacher, an Apostle and an Elder; see 2 John 1:1 and 3 John 1:1.

🌐 Why do you think God put this command in these instructions to the church?

🌐 What are some of the demands on their lives while they hold this office?

🌐 Do you think God's church leaders today receive the respect God has instructed to be given?

3. How does verse 18 relate to those whose work is preaching and teaching?

Notice you have a quote from Deut. And one from Luke. Have someone read the Luke passage noting that Jesus is teaching this principle about the 72 sent out on an evangelistic tour.

4. What are you commanded not to do concerning an elder?

5. If there is something you see that is not right in an elder's life, what does God require of you?

6. Who does he mean, "those who continue to sin?"

🌐 Why would God put this in here? Isn't this being judgmental? Isn't the church a place for the sick?

7. Why would the unrepentant elder be rebuked publicly?



Application Principle: Stop and have each table pray for their leadership and the future elders. Pray for their vision, their unity, their purity and their walk with Christ.

Read 1 Timothy 5:21-25

8. When God, Jesus and the angels are mentioned as witnesses to a statement, it must be incredibly important. What is the warning that is so important?

🕒 Why do you think this charge was so important then and is equally important today?

It is said that over a period of time a congregation takes on the personality of their leadership. If they are short-tempered and judgmental the people will follow. If they are warm, loving, compassionate and gracious, the people will also follow. Sheep follow their shepherds. That is probably why Jesus used the example of the Good Shepherd.

🕒 How can 5 or 10 men be good shepherds to 1500 people?

9. What is Timothy told not to get in a hurry and do?

🕒 Why would being in a hurry to set someone apart for ministry be an unwise act?

10. How would this cause him to share in the sins of others?

11. Why would Paul tell Timothy to use a little wine?

🕒 What are some things Christians around the world avoid thinking it makes them more pure in their faith?

12. How are sins and deeds laid out in a comparison?

Verses 24 & 25 relate back to verse 22. Paul seems to have had one of those “O yea, before I forget” moments. Then completes his thought from the hasty setting apart leaders too quickly. It is important to remember that some people will show their true colors quickly while others can fool people for some time. That is why wisdom and the guide of Scripture and the Holy Spirit is critical in knowing who and when to set apart someone to lead God’s church.

🕒 What new truth did you learn today?

Close with a Prayer Time: Pray against the devil's schemes against the church of Christ.



Going Deeper/Homework:

Memory Verse: "Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones" (Proverbs 3:7-8).

