Sometimes a comment I made wasn’t helpful or well-received, and they were able to correct me in those moments, but they didn’t lose trust in me. – Jeremy Whitebol

# Intro: How are we going to get quality leaders?

1. Leaders need support
2. Honouring leaders means cooperating with them

v. 17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor …

v. 17 especially those who labor in preaching and teaching

Hebrews 13:17 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.

1. Honouring leaders means supporting them adequately

v. 18 For the Scripture says (Deuteronomy 25:4, Luke 10:7)

v. 18 You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain …

v. 18 The laborer deserves his wages.

* How have people’s attitudes toward pastors changed in your lifetime? Why?
* If a leader is “groaning” because of how you respond to them, why is that “of no advantage to you” (Hebrews 13:17)?
* What are some ways that you can practically honour the church’s various ministry leaders?

1. Leaders need accountability
2. Don’t undermine your leaders with gossip

v. 19 Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

Matthew 18:15-16 If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. … 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.

1. Don’t undermine God’s holiness by tolerating persistent sin

v. 20 As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.

v. 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.

Galatians 2:14 But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?”

Philippians 2:12 work out your own salvation with fear and trembling …

Exodus 20:20 Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.

1. Even good leaders need hard truths expressed graciously

v. 23 No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.

* Why is it wrong to talk about people rather than to people?
* Why should the persistent sins of leaders be publicly rebuked?
* What does it mean to “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12)? How do you do that?
* How does the fear of God keep you from sinning (Exodus 20:20)?

1. Leaders need preparation
2. Rushing someone into leadership ensures their fall

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

v. 24 The sins of some people are conspicuous,

1. Even with caution, there are some sins you’ll miss

v. 24 but the sins of others appear later

v. 24 going before them to judgment

James 3:1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

1. Don’t let sin make a cynic out of you

v. 25 So also good works are conspicuous …

v. 25 even those that are not cannot remain hidden

Luke 12:2 Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.

* What are some reasons that we can be tempted to rush people into leadership, today?
* Why mention the fact of God’s judgment (v. 24) in a discussion about the evaluation of leaders?
* Why are teachers in the church “judged with greater strictness”?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Study Ahead** | **Next week, we’ll study 1 Timothy 6:1-10** |

Notes