

1 Timothy 5:17-25

March 11, 2020

There is some question whether the “elders” in verse 17 are overseers/bishops, or men of advanced age as in verse 1. The injunction to rebuke them in verse 20 would seem to indicate they are different than the older men we are told *not* to rebuke in verse 1. So they are likely overseers, or at least men who have a leading role in the assembly.

Some principles regarding assembly order from these verses:

- Prominent leaders are not immune from assembly discipline but it is to be approached with special caution in their case. The exercise of oversight in any group can lead to unjustified resentments. These should not be given free rein.
- Serious, unrepentant sin calls for action by the whole assembly.

- Our care to uphold God’s righteousness in the assembly is a testimony to angels as well as other people (see 1 Cor. 11:10).
- There must be no prejudging of cases or bias toward or against certain people.
- Understanding that laying on of hands is an expression of fellowship, haste in forming associations can lead to problems later.
- We need to be before the Lord that hidden sins will be brought to light and dealt with.

Notes

5:18 It is noteworthy that verse 18 lumps together as Scripture a verse from the O.T. (Deut. 25:4) with one from the N.T. (Luke 10:7) with equal authority.

5:21 The elect angels would be those who did not rebel along with Lucifer.

For study and discussion:

1. This section speaks of elders, starting with those who labor in teaching (doctrine) and preaching the word. Why are these activities to be particularly rewarded?
2. What form might “double honor” take?
3. Any matter in the assembly should not be influenced by prejudice or partiality. Practically speaking, when might this happen?

4. From other scriptures, what does laying on of hands signify?

5. How does verse 23 fit in here?

6. What principles regarding alcohol use can be derived from verse 23 and other scriptures?

7. What do verses 24 and 25 mean for us?