

Elders, Sin, and Caring about Truth

There are two sides to a healthy church. There is the side of the leader who chases after Jesus. There is also the side of the average believer who also chases after Jesus. Both are necessary for the church to be truly healthy.

Scripture(s): 1 Timothy 5:17-25

Today's truth: It is through mutual respect and impartiality that _____ is lifted up in a people.

I. The first governing principle for walking with the spiritual leaders of God's people is _____ those who work hard. _____ and faithful compensation are the two straightforward rewards for ministers.

1 Corinthians 9:9-11 9 For it is written in the Law of Moses, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING." God is not concerned about oxen, is He? 10 Or is He speaking altogether for our sake? Yes, for our sake it was written, because the plowman ought to plow in hope, and the thresher to thresh in hope of sharing the crops. 11 If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?

II. The second governing principle for walking with the spiritual leaders of God's people is to call for righteousness in a just and _____ way. God's people must be equally clear that neither sin in our leaders nor malicious _____ in our members is acceptable Christian behavior.

III. The third governing principle for walking with the spiritual leaders of God's people is simply notice the _____ of your leader's life. Both _____ and godliness are states that cannot be long hidden from those in our lives.

Matthew 7:15-20 ¹⁵ "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? ¹⁷ So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ So then, you will know them by their fruits.

What now? Be proactive in both _____ over good leaders and _____ failing ones.

1. Simply express your gratitude toward those who lead through thanks, _____, or meeting a need.
2. When you hear criticism of anyone ask, "Have you talked to _____ about this?"
3. Embrace the good fruit of your leaders by walking _____ them in their ministry.

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"God of Wonders"

"He Will Hold Me Fast"

* Pastoral Prayer & Time in
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