

First Among Equals

Lecture Outline

Part 1 of 4

Introduction

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer deserves his wages.’” (1 Tim. 5:17–18 ESV)

I. The Church’s D_____ to H_____ its Elders: 1 Timothy 5:17–18

A. Honor those who l_____ w_____

B. Honor those who l_____ in p_____ and t_____

C. The m_____ of “labor in preaching and teaching”

D. R_____ e_____ to double honor

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Part 2 of 4

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer deserves his wages.’” (1 Tim. 5:17–18 ESV)

II. The Church’s Duty to Honor its Elders: 1 Timothy 5:17–18 (cont.)

E. The meaning of “d_____ honor”

F. The meaning of the word “honor”

G. The s_____ basis for m_____ honor

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Lecture Outline Part 3 of 4

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer deserves his wages.’” (1 Tim. 5:17–18 ESV)

III. First Among a C_____ of E_____: L_____ Among L_____

A. In light of what we have learned, an extremely important biblical concept to grasp is “f_____ among e_____.” Failure to understand the concept of “first among equals” (or 1 Tim. 5:17) has caused some elderships to be t_____ i_____ in their pastoral care and leadership.

B. Examples:

1. Jesus and the t_____ a_____

2. P_____ in A_____

3. P_____ and B_____

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IV. First Among a Council of Equals: Leaders Among Leaders

A. Examples (cont.):

7. E_____ 4:11:

"And He gave the apostles, and the prophets, and the evangelists, and the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."

V. A_____ of This Doctrine

A. This doctrine is easily a_____. There are two extremes to the concept of equality and diversity with the eldership.

B. What "first among equals" d_____ n_____ m_____

C. A_____ of first among equals

D. All this must be balanced out with Jesus' teaching on s_____ l_____. All great leaders are, in the end, servants of the people of God. Yet there is the constant danger of exalting one man over all others, making him the "holy man," the P_____
p_____.