

THE CARE & FEEDING OF A SPIRITUAL LEADER

1 Timothy: Doing Church God's Way, Part 8

July 31st, 2011

5 Principles on How to Care, Feed, & Treat Spiritual Leaders – 1 Timothy 5:17-25

A spiritual leader, referred to as an “elder” in this passage, would be a pastor, missionary, or staff member, i.e. one who is supported financially in ministry

1. When he/she does well, pay them well – vv 17-18

“double honor” – honorarium – refers to payment for doing something

Qualifications: work hard & do it well

When a minister is lazy and/or does a poor job, we don't know what to do

1 Timothy 3:3 & 1 Peter 5:2

2. When criticized, give her/him the benefit of the doubt – v 19

Before you buy into believing the criticism, you need 2 or 3 witnesses

Deuteronomy 17:6,7 & Deuteronomy 19:15-20

2nd principle – the accuser(s) had to throw the first stone

There is no space for anonymous accusations in the church

Beware of the power of the “they's” - who are they?

You weigh opinions but don't count them

If a false accusation was made, whatever would have happened to the person you accused would happen to you

Matthew 18:15-16

Cynicism kills – it freezes and locks you in; you won't learn anything new

3. When he/she messes up, don't cover up - vv 20,21

The reason for publicly addressing an issue is to serve as a warning

James 3:1

The circle of influence is the circle of exposure

The reason we know so much about the bad side of many biblical heroes is because God doesn't hide stuff

God has told us these things so we'd fear the same thing could happen to us

4. When choosing a leader, take your time - vv 22
1 Timothy 3:2-12

5. When leaders are human (sin), don't be shocked vv 23-25

Warning: If you are not careful, it's easy to put your eyes on God's messenger and not God's message

When you look to the messenger too much, and she/he messes up, you can become angry and disillusioned with God. When that happens, you were looking at the wrong thing

"God draws straight lines with crooked sticks"

If we teach our children about the failures of biblical heroes because there are lessons to be learned, can't we do the same thing today when modern leaders fail?

When we apply these 5 principles where we are, we'll find spiritual leaders God puts into our lives (paid staff and volunteers) who will do exactly what we hope

My Next Step Today Is:

- I thank God for our staff, and I will pray for and support the New Hope staff
- Although God uses our staff to teach & help me, I will keep my eyes on God
- I plan to attend Class 101, the church's basic information class, on Sun, Aug 21st at 12:30 pm
- I want to be baptized on Sunday, August 28th at the beach