

Introduction

The church isn't a place you go to. The church is a Family. It is the "household" of God.

Question: In the family of God, how do you honor one another?

Strong families have leaders that work hard.

1 Timothy 5:17 [CSB]

The elders who are good leaders are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.

"Double honor" means respect and remuneration, or financial support.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 [CSB]

Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to give recognition to those who labor among you and lead you in the Lord and admonish you, and to regard them very highly in love because of their work.

1 Timothy 5:18 [CSB]

For the Scripture says: Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain, and, "The worker is worthy of his wages."

Found in Deuteronomy 25:4, this verse lies between a section about flogging the guilty party and instructions on preserving a family line; seemingly out of place.

1 Corinthians 9:9-12 [CSB]

For it is written in the law of Moses, Do not muzzle an ox while it treads out grain. Is God really concerned about oxen? Isn't he really saying it for our sake? Yes, this is written for our sake, because he who plows ought to plow in hope, and he who threshes should thresh in hope of sharing the crop. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it too much if we reap material benefits from you? If others have this right to receive benefits from you, don't we

even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right; instead, we endure everything so that we will not hinder the gospel of Christ.

Strong families discipline each other.

1 Timothy 5:19 [CSB]

Don't accept an accusation against an elder unless it is supported by two or three witnesses.

Deuteronomy 19:15 [CSB]

One witness cannot establish any iniquity or sin against a person, whatever that person has done. A fact must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

1 Timothy 5:20 [CSB]

Publicly rebuke those who sin, so that the rest will be afraid.

A "rebuke" is a sharp expression of disapproval or correction intended to expose wrongdoing and guide someone back to righteousness. Rather than just being harsh, it is an act of discipline meant to restore, protect, and encourage spiritual growth.

Question: Who are "the rest" that will be afraid?

1 Timothy 5:21 [CSB]

I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels to observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing out of favoritism.

Strong families protect one another.

1 Timothy 5:22 [CSB]

Don't be too quick to appoint anyone as an elder, and don't share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

Paul is protecting Timothy's spiritual health.

1 Timothy 5:23 [CSB]

Don't continue drinking only water, but use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.

Paul is protecting Timothy's physical health.

Historical fact: water-borne illnesses were very common; alcohol was used as a way to preserve water for long periods.

1 Timothy 5:24-25 [CSB]

Some people's sins are obvious, preceding them to judgment, but the sins of others surface later. Likewise, good works are obvious, and those that are not obvious cannot remain hidden.

Paul is protecting Timothy's mental health.

Question: In the family of God, how do you honor one another?

Strong families need each other.

1 Thessalonians 5:10-11 [CSB]

Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing.