

Lessons From I Timothy

Keeping Peace In The Church

(I Ti 5:21-22)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
 2. Series of “Lessons From I Timothy.”
 - a. Last week we looked at “Handling Honorable & Dishonorable Elders.”
 - i. **I Ti 5:17-20** “Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching...²⁰ As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.”¹
 - b. This week we will be looking at “Keeping Peace In The Church.”
 - i. **I Ti 5:21-22** “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality. ²² Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure.”
 3. Paul just laid out a great deal of legislation which Timothy was to not only keep but also to preach.
 - a. Treat everyone like family. **(5:1-2)**
 - b. Make sure widows receive the proper help. **(5:3-16)**
 - c. Give good elders their due and correct those in sin. **(5:17-20)**
 4. Paul, having last discussed elder and their treatment, now tells Timothy how to keep peace in the church.
 - a. By keeping those rules concerning the elders.
 - b. By keeping pure.
- I. **Keep The Rules**
- A. Without prejudging
 1. Prejudging defined: “making a judgment before all the facts are available or considered. It includes making a judgment on the basis of social status, skin color, wealth, sex, age, etc., rather than on the basis of the facts.”²
 2. In other words...
 - i. Don’t make snap decisions concerning elders based on anything other than the facts.
 - a. How many elders worthy of double honor have not receive that honor because of their skin color through the years?
 - b. How many elders have been falsely accused and made to step down because of their age?
 - B. Without partiality
 1. Partiality defined: “to show favoritism to one person or group over another person or group. Rather than making a decision on the basis of facts, an action is taken to favor one person or group on the basis of friendship.”³

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

² Notes on I Timothy by WVBS pg. 89

³ Ibid

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2. In other words...
 - i. Don't favor some elders over other elders.
 - a. How many accusations have been made by one person against an elder and have been received by brethren because they don't like an elder and want him removed?
 - b. How many unrepentant elders have been allowed to continue in sin because they are well liked by the brethren?
- C. Thus...
 1. Paul tells Timothy if he wants the church at Ephesus to keep the peace it needs it must make sure it is following the rules God has given them to follow concerning the elders.

II. Keep Pure

- A. By not hastily laying on of hands
 1. This refers to the hasty appointment of elders by a preacher.
 - i. The laying on of hands was often done to recognize a new work for God.
 - a. **Nu 27:22-23** "And Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and made him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation, 23 and he laid his hands on him and commissioned him as the LORD directed through Moses."
 - b. **Ac 6:3, 6** "Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty...6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them."
 - ii. Paul is therefore saying "Timothy do not hastily appoint elders."
 - a. A thorough vetting must take place, this is not something to be taken lightly.
- B. By not partaking in the sins of others
 1. This refers to the hasty appointment of elders by the congregation.
 - i. It is the responsibility of preachers to appoint elders.
 - a. **Ti 1:5** "This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you"
 - b. **Ac 14:23** "And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed."
 - ii. It is the responsibility of the congregation to present men to be elders.
 - a. **Ac 6:3, 5** "Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty...5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch."
 2. Paul is telling Timothy do not get caught up in letting others appoint elders hastily rather keep yourself free from it.

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CONCLUSION

1. Brethren there will be a point when we will be ready to appoint qualified men to lead this great congregation.
 - a. That will be a great day!!!
2. Question: Are seeking to know God's Word well enough that when that day comes you will be an asset to the process or a hindrance?
 - a. If an asset then continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If a hindrance than make the change now and work towards being an asset.
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**