

# Managing the Local Church

## 1 Timothy 5:17-25

In the remaining chapter, Paul identifies other areas of concern regarding the dynamic of the local church. First, he returns to the subject of the eldership. Elders could be compensated for their work. Like a preacher, elders that gave their full efforts to teaching and preaching could be supported financially by the church. This is an option for elders. Elders may choose to forgo this option. They may provide for themselves through secular employment or be financially comfortable and not need compensation.

Due in part to this option, Timothy had to be cautious in who was appointed as an elder. Disingenuous men could view the eldership as means to make money. This was a common problem, especially regarding false teachers attempting to gain influence in the church. Covetous people have always used religion as a means to make money.

Another issue in the dynamic of the local church regards an erring elder. What was Timothy to do if an elder became a problem? If an accusation(s) was to be made against an elder, Timothy was to bring the charge to the elder in the presence of two witnesses. If the elder did not repent, he was to be rebuked before the congregation.

Timothy's work among the eldership was especially sensitive work. Paul urges fairness and purity in this work. To have credibility in this effort, Timothy's character was of the utmost necessity. Wine was to be

**used by Timothy for medicinal purposes only.**

**In the closing verses of the chapter, Paul indicates why Timothy's approach to the eldership was important. Determining the fitness of some men to serve may be simple. Their character and behavior are clear and publically known. Others, however, may not be clear or publically known. A man could be appointed an elder, but prove to be ungodly after the fact. This series of instructions were critical for Timothy in dealing with such problems. Cautious, prayerful deliberation is critical in the appointment of elders.**

## **QUESTIONS**

**1. Why did Timothy need to be cautious in who he appointed as an elder?**

**2. How was Timothy's character to help him in managing the local church?**