

Overseeing the overseers

1 Timothy 5:17-25

- I. Be fair by paying elders who invest extensive time in ministry (1 Timothy 5:17-18).
 - Fairness: Elders who manage the church and commit significant time to prepare and teach should be paid so they can focus on ministry.
 - Accountability: Other leaders must oversee who is paid and how much.
- II. Be fair when elders are accused (1 Timothy 5:19-21).
 - Fairness: Serious accusations against elders must be carefully confirmed, but then publicly rebuked (19-20) without favoritism (21).
 - Accountability: Elders are accountable to the church on earth and to God in heaven.
- III. Go slow in selecting elders (1 Timothy 5:22-25).
 - Patience: Elders should be appointed only if their character is confirmed. Some traits are obvious; others are proven over time (22, 24-25; See 3:1-7).
 - Accountability: Leaders who help select other leaders are accountable for their choices.
 - Personal note to Timothy – Take some wine for your health issues (23).