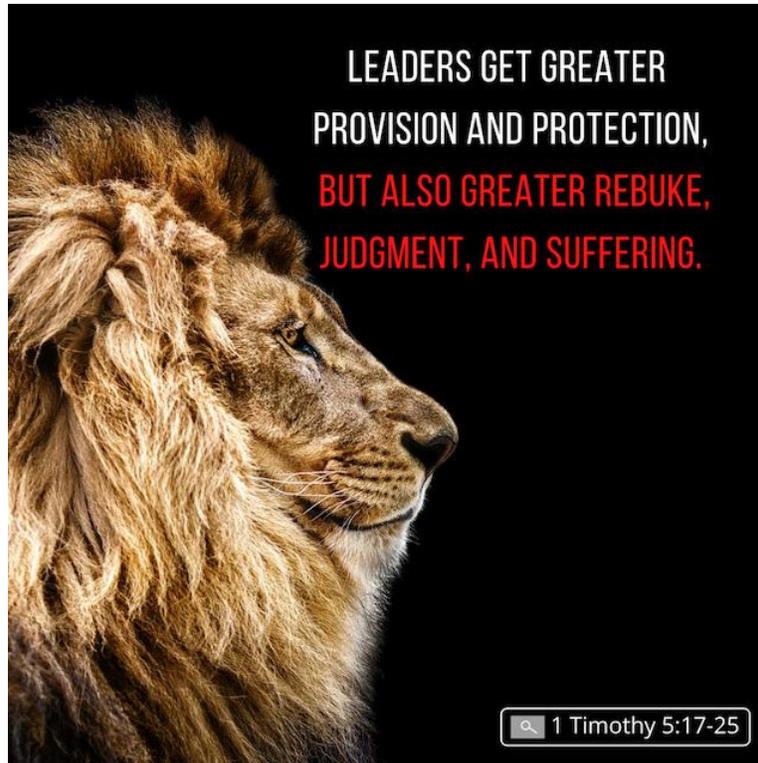


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# THE PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEADERSHIP

1 TIMOTHY 5:17-25



Godly leaders can do tremendous good; ungodly leaders can do tremendous harm. So, how do we encourage godly leadership and discourage ungodly leadership in the church?

Some men run to leadership for the privileges. Others run from leadership because of the responsibilities. Therefore, in 1 Timothy 5:17-25, Paul encourages the fearful with the privileges and deters the egomaniacs with the responsibilities.

- LEADERS HAVE GREAT PRIVILEGES
- LEADERS HAVE GREAT RESPONSIBILITIES

## LEARNING

### LEADERS HAVE GREAT PRIVILEGES

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages” (17-18). Those who rule well are to be honored by word and actions. Those who also teach well are to be doubly honored with words, actions, and also pay.

**Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses (19).** Leaders are more liable to false accusation which can ruin their usefulness. Therefore, a higher standard of evidence is required against them.

GIVE GODLY LEADERS PROVISION AND PROTECTION,  
NOT DESTITUTION AND ACCUSATION.

“Provision and protection sound great! How can I be a leader?” You probably need to hear the responsibilities first.

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## LEADERS HAVE GREAT RESPONSIBILITIES.

**As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear (20).**

When sin is proven, leaders are to be more publicly and severely rebuked.

**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 (21).** Because they will one day be judged by God, they are to judge and administer justice without any prejudice or favoritism.

**Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure (22).** They are to take their time in appointing others to leadership because if they appoint the wrong people they'll share in the shame.

**No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments (23).**

As Timothy suffered from stress-induced stomach problems, probably about who to appoint as leaders, Paul prescribed a little medicinal wine.

**The sins of some people are conspicuous, going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later. So also good works are conspicuous, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden (24-25).** When it comes to the church judging men's fitness for leadership, some are ruled out immediately because of their obvious sins. Others, their sins are hidden, but will eventually become obvious. The good works of good candidates are always obvious. "Timothy, you're going to make some mistakes, but you're only responsible for what you can see, not for what you can't see.

LEADERS GET GREATER PROVISION AND PROTECTION,  
BUT ALSO  
GREATER REBUKE, JUDGMENT, AND SUFFERING.

### LOVING

Let's love godly leaders as an expression of God's love for us. Let's thank God for giving us godly leaders who not only take the privileges but also the responsibilities. And worship God for providing Jesus Christ who set aside so many privileges in order to take the greatest responsibility. If anyone has earned the right to lead us it's Jesus.

### LIVING

Don't run to the privileges and away from the responsibilities, but embrace both to model Jesus Christ in the shepherding of God's flock.

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