

Sermon Handout

Mutual Support in the Church

I Thessalonians 5:12-13

- I.** Instructions regarding elders in the congregation
 - a. Elders are in view here Acts 14:23 (*cf.* Heb 13:17; Acts 20:28)
 - b. What they do
 - i. Labor among you (*cf.* 1:3 – effort that costs them)
 - ii. Over you in the Lord (God holds them responsible)
 - iii. Admonish you (warnings, *cf.* Acts 20:29-31)
 - c. Collateral passages:
 - i. Acts 20:17, 28
 - ii. Heb 13:17
 - iii. Titus 1:5-9
 - iv. I Pet 5:1-4
 - v. Lk 22:24-27

- II.** What we should remember about elders (shepherds)
 - a. They are given oversight, authority, care of souls
 - i. God made them overseers Acts 20:28; I Pet 5:2
 - ii. Men who must give account Heb 13:17
 - b. Their character & lifestyle are trusted and should be imitated
 - i. Of good reputation I Tim 3:4-7; Tit 1:6-7
 - ii. Examples to the flock I Pet 5:3
 - c. They are to be servant-leaders, following Jesus Lk 22:27
 - i. They must love Truth (God’s Word) Tit 1:9
 - ii. They must also love men (their flocks) Tit 1:8; Jn 15:9
 - d. They are to be trusted, obeyed; their counsel heeded
 - i. “Obey them that have rule” Heb 13:17; I Pet 5:3
 - ii. Worthy of “double honor” I Tim 5:17-18
 - iii. They are to “exhort” (implying obedience) Tit 1:9

- III.** What are we to make of Paul’s admonitions?
 - a. “Know” your elders
 - i. Who are they? What do they do? Where have they been?
 - b. Hold the elders in “high regard” for their works sake
 - i. Their work: teaching, warning, rebuking, counseling
 - c. Love your elders
 - i. Give their instruction high credibility
 - ii. Love them as brothers in Christ
 - iii. Encourage, support, pray