

# PROTECTING THE LORD'S CHURCH

WHAT GOD WANTS IN A LEADER 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-13, 5:3-18

## for **Children:**

Read 1 Timothy 5:17-18;

Ephesians 6:1-3; & Hebrews 13:17.

Our parents want what is best for us and have experience in life to know what things might trip us up or harm us. So, when we listen to them, things usually turn out well. Likewise, God has designed the church family in such a way that when we follow the leaders He has given us we are blessed with growth and safety in our spiritual lives. But we need to encourage them, so consider doing or saying something nice to the leaders in your church family.

## for the **Mature Christian:**

Review a bit about Timothy's history: His mother and grandmother had trained him in God's Word (2 Tim. 1:5 ;3:14-15). Paul recognized his potential as a leader (Acts 16:1-2). Paul assigned him ministries (Acts 19:22). Paul defended him before others (1 Cor. 16:10-11). Paul reminded him of and encouraged him in his God-given abilities (1 Tim. 1:18).

The next generation of church leaders needs prayer, teaching, and mentoring. If you are already a church leader, prayerfully consider on whom God wants you to focus your encouragement and training. If you are considering leadership in any capacity (men & women), seek out mentorship, experience, and encouragement.

## WEEKLY AFFIRMATION:

***I Can Encourage  
My Church  
Leaders***

## for the **Growing Christian:**

Ephesians 4:12 reveals that the leaders of the local church equip *all* the saints for ministry. Start preparing now for serving in the future. Prayerfully consider these next steps:

### **Start Studying God's Word (1 Peter 1:3).**

Connect with a Bible study or class in the church. Find a Bible reading plan that suits your style. You grow in sanctification by the Holy Spirit as you grow in your knowledge of Scripture.

**Start Teaching (Colossians 3:16).** Wait, don't panic. Make it small. Share about what you've learned in your Bible reading with someone else. Be an aide in Jr. Worship, share a devotion at a meeting, or write a communion meditation.

**Start Persevering (James 1:2-4).** Surrender the next stressful situation to God. Seek first God's Kingdom and His righteousness and rest in the promise of His provision.

**Start Conquering (John 15:2).** Be honest with yourself before God. As you learn more about what is pleasing to God, prune out that which is not, and let the Holy Spirit do His work of sanctification.

## WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE:

"...honor those leaders who work so hard for you,...  
Overwhelm them with appreciation and love!..."

**1 Thessalonians 5:12-13**

## JULY 2024 GROWTH GOALS

- Read the Book of 1 Timothy
- Memorize one of the weekly memory verses
- Watch the Bible Project video on the Book of 1 Timothy (*available on the website*).
- Pray 15 minutes each week for the upcoming Sunday Bible Classes & Worship Assembly.