Healthy Churches

**Honor Each Other**

(1 Timothy 5:1-6:2)

***5****17Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. 18For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.” 19Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. 20As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear. 21In 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. 22Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure. 23(No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.) 24The sins of some people are conspicuous, going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later. 25So also good works are conspicuous, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden.*

***6 1****Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.****2****Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved. Teach and urge these things. (ESV)*

*Healthy churches honor each other sensitively* (5:1-2)

*Healthy churches honor those who are vulnerable and in need* (5:3-16)

***Romans 12:10***

*“Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”*

***1 Peter 2:17***

*“Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.”*

**How do I show honor using social media?**

***Ephesians 4:29***

*“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.”*

How do I respond to a post with honor?

* Don’t be impulsive – Don’t respond quickly. The sinful flesh urges immediate venting of angry or irreverent responses. It may be best not to respond at all.
* Listen to what is said/written – Don’t assume what is said or heard. Hear it out. This honors a person by allowing them to finish their thoughts.
* Talk personally – It is always best to contact the person personally. Or, it is better to get off public social media lines and converse further on private ones. This usually forces a person to alter their approach and be more conciliating.
* Clarify – Ask questions to clarify the intentions of posting and inquire about the content of the posting. Ask before accusing.
* Affirm the good & confront the bad – Allow benefits to be benefits. Confront bad theology and misinformation only after considering the positive contribution.
* Strengthen the relationship – The relationship is most important. You may win a fight and lose the relationship. Some doctrines call for more strenuous resolution and confrontation, but this is not often the case with many rude social media retorts. We are to speak the truth but do so in love (Eph 4:15).

How do I post with honor?

* What? – What are you posting? Is it true?
* Why? – Why are you posting this?
* Who? – Who will see or read it?
* How? – How will this edify them? (Phil 4:8)
* What? – What might cause offense?

*Healthy churches honor their leaders* (5:17-25)

* Honor those that lead well (vs. 17-19)

***Deuteronomy 19:15***

“A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.

* Confront those that do not lead well (vs. 20-25)

***1 Samuel 26:11***

*“The Lord forbid that I should put out my hand against the Lord's anointed. But take now the spear that is at his head and the jar of water, and let us go.”*

*Healthy churches honor their employers* (6:1-2)

* Honor is a testimony of the gospel (v. 1)
* Honor is an act of love (v. 2)