

The Church's Honor Rolls

1 Timothy 5:1-18

Introduction:

- How many kinds of honor rolls can you think of?
 1. S _____
 2. P _____
 3. C _____
- Every local church is to have honor rolls.
 1. Honor means *to place a high v_____ upon*.
 2. Honor can take many forms. We will look at three honor rolls every local church must have.

Relative Honor Roll (1,2)

- A church is a body of people of different a _____.
 1. We need to take in the age differential whenever there is c_____.
 2. We should never r_____ one another (a word that in this context means sharp words designed to condemn a person).
 3. We should rather e_____ one another (a word that means to come alongside in order to help).
- When in conflict, we must relate to each other in as a family.
 1. An man who is older than you, relate to as a f_____.
 2. An woman older than you, relate to as a m_____.
 3. Everyone else we are to relate to as equals, as b_____ and s_____.
 4. In other words, we deal with conflict in a way that h_____ the person while correcting the problem.

Widow Honor Roll (3-16)

- There is a variety in the translations of verse 3
 1. NAS – *Honor widows who are widows indeed* (or true widows).
 2. NIV – *Give proper recognition to those widows who really are in need*.
 3. NLT – *Take care of any widow who has no one else to care for her*.
 4. The NIV and NLT chose not to translate verse 3 but to interpret it by taking from the information given in verse 4.
- The state of a widow at the time I Timothy was written.
 1. The husband was the financial provider and the wife focused on raising c_____ and keeping h_____ (see v. 14).
 2. When a husband died, the wife had no means of i_____ (they had no social security or life insurance or pensions).

3. Becoming a widow was financially devastating.
- The church's response to a woman becoming a widow.
 1. Meet her immediate n_____.
 2. Give her c_____ the opportunity to help her financially (if they refuse when they have the means, they are worse than an unbeliever, for even unbelieving children help their aged parents).
 3. Assess the kind of widow she is:
 - a. A widow who is not a true widow:
 - 1) Is a widow who desires to r_____ (v. 6)
 - 2) Is a widow who is less than _____ years old (v. 9)
 - 3) Is a widow who has not devoted herself to good w_____ (v. 10)
 - b. A widow who is a true widow:
 - 1) Is a widow who has no i_____ to ever remarry.
 - 2) Is at least 60 years old.
 - 3) Has a reputation for doing good works – serving God and others in the c_____.
 - c. A widow who is a young widow (vv. 11-15)
 - 1) Is less than 60 years old.
 - 2) Paul counsels these women to seek r_____ because in his experience they become nosey and gossips and eventually remarry anyway.
 - d. Independent women (e.g. Lydia in Acts 16) are to take care of the widows in their household (v. 16).
4. A true widow qualifies for ongoing compensation (a salary) that goes above and beyond meeting her needs.
 - a. A pastor's w_____ who becomes a true widow should be paid a salary if she continues serving God and others in the church.
 - b. Any other women who fulfill the qualifications should also be paid an ongoing salary.

Elder Honor Roll (17,18)

- Titus 1:5-7 clearly shows that an elder is an overseer, a spiritual s_____ over a church or a group within the church.
 1. The apostle Paul appointed elders in e_____ church that he planted on his first missionary journey (Acts 14:23).
 2. The qualifications of an elder are given in 1 Tim 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-7.
- The elders who rule well are worthy of double h_____.
 1. What measures if an elder is ruling well? – if he works h_____ at studying God's w_____ and teaching it to others (the literal

translation of verse 17b – *those who labor in the word and in teaching*).

2. What is the double honor?

a. The first kind of honor is illustrated by the law in Deut 25:4.

1) An ox would thresh grain with its h_____ or with a tool it was pulling.

2) The law prohibited the farmer from putting a m_____ on the ox, but was to allow the ox to eat while working.

3) An elder is to be honored by f_____ him when he is out in field ministering (e.g. short term missions; visitation).

b. The second kind of honor is illustrated by the saying, *the laborer is worthy of his wages*.

1) The common laborer would agree to work for a wage. At the end of the d_____ if the laborer did his work, he got paid the agreed wage.

2) An elder cannot rule well and have a f_____ -time job - For example, a carpenter was appointed by Paul as an elder in a church. The carpenter works hard at studying God's word and teaching it and finds that he cannot do as much carpentry as he used to. Because the carpenter has sacrificed income to rule well, the church should pay him a salary.

3) An elder can rule well and have a p_____ -time job or have a working wife.

● What elders should we pay in our church?

1. The lead p_____ who works hard at studying God's word and teaching it to the point that he cannot work full-time in secular work.

2. If we want a d_____ pastor to work hard at studying God's word and teaching it to a point that he gives up full-time secular work.

3. If we want a y_____ pastor to work hard at studying God's word and teaching it to youth to the point that he gives up full-time secular work.