

Specific Questions: Text: 1Thessalonians 5:12-13

1. In Acts 20:17-35, the elders of Ephesus are directed by Paul to provide instruction, protection, and oversight. These tasks parallel “diligently labor,” “have charge,” and “give instruction.” Most Christians see the main role, especially for Pastor-elders, as teaching. What other specific responsibilities are included in “labor” and “have charge?”
2. Appreciation begins with understanding, or thinking clearly about the role. What is one thing elders and pastors are responsible for that you would not want to do? Why?
3. The exhortation in these two verses is to the church (the pronoun “you” is plural in each case). Identify five or six ways a congregation could do this. (If the elders initiate it, is it “self-serving”? If they don’t initiate it, will it happen?) How often should this be expressed?
4. Why does Paul add the phrase “very highly in love” to the exhortation?
5. There are many different types of elder-pastor leadership styles (for example: dictatorial, chaplain, shepherd, academic). What are some differences? Does Scripture prescribe just one, or is there evidence of a blend?
6. Read Hebrews 13:17. How do you feel about that accounting of your following your leaders? How should the person on your left feel about it?

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

1. What new concept did you learn from this week’s text?
2. Is there anything in the text that you don’t understand?
3. How does this text challenge you to change? Is there anything standing in your way of making that change?