

**Our responsibilities toward  
elders of the local church**

## I. “know them” I Thess. 5:12

- That labor among you = “*Toil, difficult, strenuous work*” emphasis on exertion
- That are over you in the Lord = “*stand before; preside; rule*”, lead
- Who admonish you – “*warn*”; reprove
- *Eidenai* = (infinitive, perfect-active tense) “*knowledge gained by paying attention, observation*”; full knowledge
  - Both before they became elders to determine qualifications and now as elders b/c they lead

## **II. “esteem them highly” I Thess. 5:13**

- As they pass before your mind – consider them highly, recognizing their work (role)**
- In love – *agape*’; recognize they are serving you in their role, and you are to serve them**
- It is immaterial if I am upset about being admonished...it’s their job!**
- If this mind exists, there will be no putting down of elders at home, to brethren, etc.**

### **III. “reprove them” I Tim. 5:19-22**

- **That sin (established by 2 or 3 witnesses) v.19**
- **Responsibility of Timothy to convict “so as to bring about shame” publicly before all the brethren**
  - **Why? Because they lead!**
- **It is important to choose men who are qualified and known – v.22**

## IV. “obey them” Heb. 13:17

- **That rule over you – leading before you**
- **Obey = “*to be persuaded, listen to; yield*”**
  - **We obey because we are persuaded by their teaching and conduct**
  - **We also obey because we trust and have confidence in them as leaders and shepherds**

## V. “let them” rule Heb. 13:17

- **Be submissive**
  - Lit. “*under*” + “*to yield*” = to submit
- **Let them rule with joy, not grief (“to groan” of an inward, unexpressed feeling of sorrow)**
  - Would bring about unprofitable-ness (“not advantageous”) for us
  - They watch out for our souls – therefore heed admonishment and teaching

# **Our responsibilities toward elders of the local church**

**While elders have great responsibilities  
“*as those who must give account*”, we  
have equal responsibilities to them to  
ensure the proper function of their  
position**