

LEADING WITH INTEGRITY (2)

AS SEEN THROUGH MALACHI'S EYES

The Role of Elders

(i) Intercessors & Ministers of the Word:

Acts 6:

³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty (*distribution of food for poor*). ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

The Role of Elders

(ii) Shepherds with Spiritual oversight:

Acts 20

²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

The Role of Elders

(iii) Directors of the Church affairs:

1Tim 5

¹⁷ Let the elders who *direct the affairs of the church* well be considered worthy of double honour, especially those who labour in preaching and teaching.

The Response of God's People

(i) Submission:

Heb 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

(ii) Cooperation

Malachi 2

"And now, O priests, this command is for you. ² If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, says the LORD of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart. ³ Behold, I will rebuke your offspring, and spread dung on your faces, the dung of your offerings, and you shall be taken away with it. ⁴ So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may stand, says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 2

⁵ My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared me. He stood in awe of my name.

⁶ True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity.

⁷ For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 2

⁸ But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts, ⁹ and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction."

GOD HONOURS THOSE WHO HONOUR HIM!

➤ The price for dishonour

² If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, says the LORD of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings.

GOD HONOURS THOSE WHO HONOUR HIM!

➤ The Reward for Honour

⁵ My covenant with him (*Levi*) was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him.

*What area in my life brings no
Honour to God?!*