

AND HE GAVE... | A Tribute of Honor

In Ephesians 4, God has designed His Church to grow and flourish through healthy spiritual leadership. In 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, Paul urges believers to acknowledge those who work hard among them and hold them in the highest regard. This isn't about honoring titles or personalities. It is about recognizing and appreciating the God-given role of those who faithfully serve and care for the spiritual health of others. This discussion explores what it means to offer a "tribute of honor" through practical expressions of love and support. Let's see what God's Word has to say!

1 Thessalonians 5: 11-15

11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 12 Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. 13 Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. 14 And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

1 Timothy 5:17-20

17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. 18 For Scripture says, "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages." 19 Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. 20 But those elders who are sinning you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning.

Galatians 6:6

6 Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.

Main points

1. Acknowledge your spiritual leaders. GET TO KNOW THEM!
2. Hold them in the highest regard. VALUE THEM!
3. Love them in a practical way. SUPPORT THEM!
4. Live in peace with them. SPEAK WELL OF THEM!

Questions for Reflection

1. Did anything catch your attention? What stands out to you? What spoke to you?
2. How have spiritual leaders helped shape your faith journey? Share about a leader, coach, teacher, mentor, parent, or pastor who had a significant impact on your life.

What made their influence meaningful? How did they help you grow?

3. In verse 12, the word "acknowledge" can also mean "know" or "recognize." What does it look like to truly know those who labor among us? What are some unseen responsibilities and burdens pastors often carry? How does a personal relationship with spiritual leaders change the way we view and support them? What practical step could you take to better know or encourage a spiritual leader this month?
4. What does "double honor" mean in these passages? Why is honor more than words or feelings? How do these passages describe a partnership between spiritual leaders and believers? Besides financial support, what are other practical ways believers can support those who teach and lead? How does supporting spiritual leaders contribute to the health and mission of the church?
5. Why do you think Paul connects honoring leaders with living in peace? How can gossip, criticism, or division undermine the work of spiritual leadership? What safeguards does Scripture provide when concerns about leadership arise? Why is it important to speak well of those who lead us? What dangers can arise when believers fail to value or recognize spiritual leadership? How does honoring spiritual leaders ultimately reflect honor to God?
6. What insight did you gain from this lesson? Identify a few takeaways from this lesson.

A Few Takeaways

- Spiritual leaders are gifts from God for the growth, protection, and maturity of His Church.
- Believers are called to know, appreciate, and honor those who labor among them.
- Honor is expressed through love, encouragement, prayer, practical support, and generosity.
- Healthy churches value partnership between leaders and congregation.
- We should refuse gossip, division, and unnecessary criticism while pursuing peace and unity.
- Faithful leaders often carry burdens that are unseen by others.
- Honoring those who have invested in our spiritual lives reflects gratitude to God.

In Closing: A tribute is more than words. It is a practical expression of gratitude, respect, and love. Scripture calls believers to recognize and honor those who faithfully shepherd, teach, encourage, and guide them in the Lord. Spiritual leaders invest in the eternal well-being of God's people. Many faithful servants work tirelessly behind the scenes. Like the heroes in Hebrews 11, their impact is often greater than what can be seen in the moment. As we acknowledge their labor, support them in practical ways, and speak well of them, we strengthen the unity and health of Christ's Church. This week, consider those spiritual leaders who have impacted your life. Ask yourself: How can I intentionally honor, encourage, or support them as an expression of gratitude to God?

Bible Refs: [Ephesians 4:1-16](#); [Jeremiah 3:15](#); [1 Peter 5:1-4](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:1-24](#), [1 Timothy 5:17-20](#), [Galatians 6:6](#); [Hebrews 11:13-40](#) [[SPANISH](#)]