

## **Notes from Sermon given by Ian Stackhouse - November 5th 2006**

### **1 Timothy 5 v17 – 6 v2**

#### **Trustworthiness**

We can often judge things quickly about a person, such as where they originate from by the way they speak. We can often see if someone is trustworthy by the way they act. However in the church community we think that to be accepted we have to put on a good face and cover up sin – thus it is harder in the Church to detect sin.

Some sins are not obvious; they leave a trail behind and are discovered later.

#### **Appointing Elders**

We need to exercise extreme caution in appointing Church leaders i.e. Elders – don't be hasty in the laying on of hands as it is easy to make a mistake in haste. Laying on of hands has many application in the church e.g. dedication of children, commissioning of missionaries, bringing a blessing, healing of the sick. The context here is in the appointment of Elders.

#### **Respect for Elders**

Elders are worthy of double honour, this does not mean being paid double salary. The double honour is to be paid for exercising the gift that God has given them. In the UK we need to ensure our Church leaders are paid and provided for so they don't get distracted by concerns over money; this will enable them to focus on their gift of preaching and teaching. If the Church looked properly after those in ministry then there would be a visible difference in the Christian Church including revival. In GBC Ian Stackhouse considers the Elders are well provided for and is appreciative.

In our dealing with Elders and Pastors we don't want to silence criticism, but any criticism must be constructive. Before making an accusation we should go to 2 or 3 witnesses (v20,21). If an accusation is made biblically then it must be addressed and not ignored. If an Elder has sinned then he should be rebuked publicly. In the world when a politician is accused/found out it doesn't mean they should stand down, it is different in the Church.

The qualification to be an Elder, as we saw a few weeks ago, is character not charismatic gifts. However godliness does not mean an excuse for no sense of humour. Integrity is essential in leaders.

GBC is on the verge of great things and the enemy's desire would be to bring down a leader and bring the Church into disarray – we need to watch out.