

GROWTH GROUP

Study Guide

Loving the Lord's Servants – 1 Thess. 5:12-13

My Story

1. Who was one of your favorite teachers in school? What made that teacher stand out from all the rest?

Digging Deeper

2. Compare 1 Thess. 5:12-13 to Heb. 13:7. What responsibilities do church leaders bear, and what responsibilities does Paul lay upon the church? What do you think are the most important aspects of a leader's job and calling? Why?
3. Read 1 Tim. 3:1-7. How might the character qualities listed help a leader to fulfill the responsibilities listed in the passages from the previous question? What does 1 Pet. 5:1-4 teach us about the attitudes church leaders are to have in leading the church?

4. In 1 Thess. 5:12-13 Paul focuses twice on the labor/work leaders do as being part of the reason they should be appreciated & esteemed. What does that labor/work look like in our modern church context? Do you think expectations of church leaders have changed over time? If so, how?

Reflection

5. How might unrealistic expectations cause some Christians to show less appreciation for their leaders? What would qualify as "unrealistic expectations"?
6. How do churches today regularly show their appreciation and love for their leaders? While we often think of pastors in response to these questions, how can we extend our love and appreciation to others who labor and work in the church?

SERMON NOTES

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Taking the Next Step

One of the best things we can do for our church leaders is to pray for them regularly. Pray for God's leading in their ministry to the church; pray for the Holy Spirit's protection from Satan's attacks; and pray that God will help you bless each other.

Praises / Prayer Requests

