

Respect The Children

Description

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1 Timothy 3:1-13

According to 1 Timothy 3, to be a leader in the church is to demonstrate holiness, especially in the family. The rhetorical question Paul asks Timothy is quite revealing: "How can a person hope to effectively manage a church if she or he cannot manage his or her home and family?" (1 Tim. 3:5, author's paraphrase).

Holiness of life is tested in the home where the true self is exposed for all family members to see. If we are to be like Christ, holy in all we are, say, and do, then this must be demonstrated to those closest to us. The marriage covenant must be honored. Love, encouragement, discipline, and instruction of children are essential to their spiritual growth. The witness of the family to the community in hospitality and compassion is also vital.

This faithfulness to covenant within the family is framed with mutual respect: the leader's respect for his family and the church, the family's respect for the leader, and the church's respect for its leader. Disrespect in any relationship negates effective, fruitful ministry.

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