

Introduction

- Title possibly misleading - how to lead would be better...
 - the context is in the church family - how to lead in the church family..?
 - hard to tell how Paul split this section up in his head!
 - couple of worked examples (widows, slaves)
 - some directed advice, to Timothy himself, and for Timothy to pass on to other leaders in the church in Ephesus...
 - seek to pick these out thematically...

How to lead

- Not harsh, rather exhort (v.1)
 - note that exhortation is present...
- Leadership via analogy:
 - father (v.1), brother (v.1), mother (v.2), sister (v.2)...
 - with family love, care, purity (particularly associated with relations to young women...)
- No favouritism (v.21)
- Not hasty (v.22)
 - what is laying on of hands? Healing or some other kind of prayer ministry? Or designation as a leader? Or possibly some kind of act of restoration following discipline for sin - which would fit the comments about sharing the sins of others
 - sharing sins of others - gossip? being hasty...?
- Look after yourself: (v.23)
 - number of ministers off with stress, self-imposed demands, expectations, time-off, rest, exercise...
 - balance with giving selves to service...

Tangent: sins and good deeds... (v.24,25)

- What has this to do with the rest?
 - perhaps connected most with v.22, and relates to those being disciplined and subsequently restored
 - observation about what happens in leadership...? You see this happening?
- Teach and urge (6:1-2)
 - in context of another practical example, about slavery
 - (and grapple a bit with the actual teaching on slavery here; problem is that there isn't comparable teaching for the masters here...)

How to treat leaders

- Honour them (v.17)
- Give them their due (v.18)
- Protect their interests, especially against accusations (v.19)
 - and exercise that protection in such a way that it carries over to others (v.20)

Widows (v.3-16)

- Like a worked example...
 - and Timothy is to give a lead in this situation...
 - to recognise and respond to real need
 - to guard against abuse of generosity, those who would take advantage
 - to caution those in particular situations against the spiritual dangers their particular situation might make them more prone to succumbing to - v.6 relates to priorities; a widow might perhaps have had more freedom to choose how to spend her day than others in society...

Conclusion

- *People matter; taking time and care matters; leadership matters; sin matters; priorities and use of time matters...*

