



...Study Papers on Various Bible Topics

Should Pastors Be Paid?

The Following Study was initiated as a Result of a Long and protracted discussion brought on by an elder at a recent Bible Study Group. He boldly offered up the idea that no where in scripture does it say or imply that Pastors, Deacons, Elders, etc. should or can be financially paid to do the work of the ministry...I leave it to the reader of this short study paper to reach their own conclusions.

Is it Scripturally Acceptable for Pastors, Deacons and/or Elders and staff to be financially compensated for their work in the ministry?

The New Testament contains various passages that discuss the financial support of religious leaders and workers, including pastors or ministers.

While the specifics of how pastors should be compensated can vary among different Christian denominations and interpretations, there are several passages in the New Testament that are often cited in support of paying pastors or providing for their material needs:

1. 1 Timothy 5:17-18 (ESV):

"Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,' and, 'The laborer deserves his wages.'"

The above passage suggests that those who serve as elders or pastors, particularly those who labor in preaching and teaching, should be honored and compensated for their work. The reference to not muzzling an ox refers to allowing those who work to benefit from their labor.

2. 1 Corinthians 9:13-14 (ESV):

"Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel."

This passage draws a parallel between Old Testament priests who were supported by the offerings brought to the temple and those who proclaim the gospel in the New Testament. It suggests that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from their ministry.

3. Galatians 6:6 (ESV):

"Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches."

This verse emphasizes the idea of sharing material resources with those who teach the Word of God, which can be applied to supporting pastors and ministers.

It's important to note that the interpretation and application of these passages can vary among Christian denominations and traditions. Some churches may have a formal salary structure for pastors, while others may rely on voluntary contributions or a combination of both. Additionally, the level of financial support for pastors can vary widely, depending on the church's resources and practices.

Ultimately, whether or not pastors should be paid and how they are compensated is a matter of interpretation and tradition within each specific Christian community.

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(Special thanks goes to Brother Bill Landman for his assistance in compiling this study w/Bernard)

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Romans 12:2

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