

Intro:

8th rule of rightly understanding M.L.: WLC Q&A 99:8. We are responsible *to* others to obey God.

Main Point of Text: *Elders are servants to help fellow-Christians joyfully stand by faith.*

Sermon Point: *Be helpful.*

Move 1: Do not support sin in your superiors.

LC: “... we are to take heed of partaking with others in what is forbidden them”:

- *Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.* (1 Tim. 5:22).
 - Chapter's “title”: “Duties toward believers”. Honor position and responsibilities.
 - But be careful not to hastily ordain a man who will prove to be a hindrance rather than a helper.
- *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.* (Eph. 5:11)

Move 2: But support everyone in doing their duty to Jesus.

LC: “... what is commanded to others, we are bound, according to our places and callings, to be helpful to them ...”: 2 Corinthians 1:24. Context: Paul had been tough on them, but delayed arrival to help them catch conviction:

- Wants them to understand he is a “doulos” of Christ and them: “Not ... have dominion”.
- Wanted them to understand his rule was to help them: Greek, “fellow-workers”.
- If they can accept, it will help them stand by their faith (conviction/commitment) and thus have joy.
- WCF 16:2: “... by [good works] believers manifest thankfulness, strengthen their assurance, edify their brethren ...” Result: **joy**.
- READ Hebrews 13:7, 17. Don't deny elders joy. Nor you joy that comes with helping.
- READ 1 Peter 5:1-8. Devil wants to steal your joy. You all have a role to play in disappointing him.

Conclusion:

Know your roles to Christ and His Church.

Be helpful.