



Sunday April 23, 2017
1 Timothy Series
Chapter 5 : Honor In God's House

We continue our study on 1 Timothy

Brief Review

As a reminder, 1 Timothy is an Epistle the apostle Paul wrote to Timothy whom he put in charge of the church in Ephesus. Timothy served under Paul for about 18 years. Timothy is now a young man, about 34 or 35 years of age. Paul is writing primarily to instruct Timothy how to lead and take care of the Ephesian church.

Lets Read 1 Timothy chapter 5

Now lets study this chapter.

For our study, we will divide the chapter into five sections, based on what is being addressed:

- Relationships Within The Church (vs 1-3)
- Believers Responsibility for Their Own Family (vs 4-8)
- The Church's Responsibility Towards Widows (vs 9-16)
- Leading Spiritual Leaders (vs 17-20)
- Personal Notes to A Spiritual Leader (vs 21-23)
- Outcomes (vs 24-25)

Relationships Within The Church (vs 1-3)

- 1 Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers,**
- 2 older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity.**
- 3 Honor widows who are really widows.**

These instructions are for a young man Timothy on how to relate to people of differing ages as he lead them all spiritually. However, these are instructions that we can all apply to our own lives as we relate to one another in the House of God. We learn that we have to treat one another with honor.

Believers Responsibility for Their Own Family (vs 4-8)

- 4 But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.**
- 5 Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day.**
- 6 But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives.**
- 7 And these things command, that they may be blameless.**
- 8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.**

Paul instructs what must happen in the local church to take care of widows.



Children must rise up to the occasion and address any needs their parents might have. This is "good and acceptable" before God. God is pleased with this.

Widows who are older, would normally give themselves to prayer and supplication.

Also, we see in verse 8 it puts the responsibility on the believer (in this case the man) to provide for his own household.

Vs 7 Paul is encouraging Timothy to provide these instructions to the local church "*so that they will do the right thing in their extended family*" (MSG Bible).

The Church's Responsibility Towards Widows (vs 9-16)

9 Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man,
10 well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.
11 But refuse the younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry,
12 having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith.
13 And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.
14 Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.
15 For some have already turned aside after Satan.
16 If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.

Now Paul is stating that a widow who is sixty years and older, who has served the church well should be taken care of by the church, if there is such a need. As we see in Vs 16, if the family is able to take care of them, then the family should do so, and not burden the church, so that the church can help those who are elderly widows in real need.

Younger widows are encouraged to get married and set up a family, instead of wasting their time in idle things.

Leading Spiritual Leaders (vs 17-20)

17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.
18 For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE AN OX WHILE IT TREADS OUT THE GRAIN," and, "THE LABORER IS WORTHY OF HIS WAGES."
19 Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses.
20 Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

Now Paul instructs on how to lead spiritual leaders, as we saw in chapter 3, these were called 'elders'. The word 'elders' in the Greek is 'presbuteros'. As we had mentioned in the Early Church the terms bishop, elders, and presbyters were used interchangeably and referred to any one providing spiritual leadership.



Vs 17 : Give them double honor, implying that we treat all people with honor, but spiritual leaders deserve double honor - greater respect and regard.

Vs 18 : Part of this includes taking care of their material needs as required. At APC many of our spiritual leaders serve as volunteers, and they have their own professional jobs that helps them take care of their financial needs. We encourage people to do this.

Vs 19: Be careful in anyone brings any kind of accusation against a spiritual leader. You need two or more witnesses to this before handling the matter.

Vs 20 : If any elder (spiritual leader) under Timothy's oversight is sinning, that is continuing to sin, then you need to address this matter publicly, so all may learn and walk in reverence before God and not be led astray by the continuing wrong doing of the spiritual leader gone astray.

Personal Notes to A Spiritual Leader (vs 21-23)

21 I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.

22 Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.

23 No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.

Vs 21 : Interesting that Paul is charging or exhorting Timothy, reminding him that God, the Lord Jesus and the elect angels are watching him. Paul charges Timothy to do nothing out of PREJUDICE (without prejudging, personal preference) and nothing out of PARTIALITY (without favoritism).

This is so important for the leader to establish a level 'playing field' for all in the church.

Everyone is treated equally and fairly.

No bias based on language or cultural background.

No preference based on social or economic status.

Everyone is given the same opportunity, everyone is expected to live by the same standards and carry responsibility.

Vs 22 Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, meaning do not appoint anyone as a leader in a hurry. We usually take this approach. First you perform your function.

If you do it well, faithfully, then we will give you the title that this function deserves.

And if you do that well, we can groom you for the next level.

Vs 22 ...Do not share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure

Very important instruction for a spiritual leader.

Do not become an 'accomplice in crime' with what people say and do.

So if people are making a decision - let them know it is their decision - and not to include your name on it.

Always be on guard, what and where you are 'roped in' by people. Be cautious and quick to step away from anything that is wrong.



We've always worked hard at trying to follow Paul's instructions:

2 Corinthians 6:3 We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.

2 Corinthians 8:21 providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

Vs 23 : It appears that Timothy had an ongoing stomach problem. We do not know how long he had it or how long it lasted. Wine in this case was used for its medicinal value. In our day, we may have other medications that can help stomach problems. In our understanding this verse is no license to indulge in drinking alcohol.

Outcomes (vs 24-25)

24 Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later.

25 Likewise, the good works of some are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden.

Vs 24-25 seem to tie back to the issue of leaders sinning (vs 19-20) and the need for Timothy to keep himself away from becoming a partner in other peoples wrong doing (vs 22).

In this regard, some people's sins are out in the open and we will see them be judged. Some people's sins are only exposed at a later time, but will be exposed. Similarly, when people do good, for some we can clearly see the good they are doing, and for others, while the good they are doing are temporarily hidden (behind the scenes), they will be rewarded by the Lord.

This reminds us of what the Lord Jesus said:

Matthew 10:26 Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

So then we will all have to live right and treat each other right.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Honor every one. Older men and women as fathers and mothers. Younger men and women as brothers and sisters. Spiritual leaders with double honor.

Vs 17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.

MINISTRY TIME