

I TIMOTHY 5:1-16

REVIEW...

- **THE GOOD SERVANT – 10 COMMANDS...**
 - The need to LEAD - command the church / the need to TEACH the Word of God...
 - Do not DESPISE youth / be an EXAMPLE – in word / actions / love / spirit / faith / purity!
 - FOCUS on reading the Word / interpreting / and applying it...
 - USE the gift that God has given / MEDITATE and GIVE yourself to these things...
 - Take HEED - be careful – not to fall in the temptation or sin / CONTINUE – in the Word of God!

HOW TO TREAT PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH... (4 POINTS)

- **1ST – WE ARE A FAMILY... VS. 1-2**
 - Paul now moves on to the final of four topics...
 - He has given Timothy three lessons – Teach the Word / Grace / Prayer...
 - He has defined three roles – Women / Pastors / Deacons...
 - He showed exhorted Timothy on the need to DEFEND the FAITH!
 - He now spends chapter 5-6 – talking about relationship within the church...
 - It should come as no surprise the church is made up of a DIVERSITY of people...
 - There are old people / young people – men / women – married / single – rich / poor...
 - Jesus came to save people from all walks of life – and all of them are in His church...
 - And his desire is that we all come together in UNITY – as a FAMILY!
 - Because only when we have UNITY – are we an example of Jesus to a LOST world!
 - **John 17:21** – “That they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe You sent Me.”
 - 1st – OLDER MEN like fathers... vs. 1
 - OLDER MAN – *Presbyteros* – in context referring to ELDERLY men in the church...
 - It seems we always tend to think of OLDER MEN – as people who are older than we are...
 - No matter how old I get – I never think I am old – old is people older than I am!
 - The typical definition for OLDER MAN - is those who have already raised their children...
 - In other words – if they have grandchildren – then chances they are an OLDER MAN!
 - Do not REBUKE...
 - REBUKE – only here NT – to strike or beat upon – figuratively with our words...
 - This does NOT mean we are to IGNORE the sin of others!
 - There is a tendency in our culture – to avoid confrontation...
 - If someone does something wrong – the accepted response it to IGNORE it / them...
 - As if somehow time will miraculously make everything OK!
 - Sin is devastating - if we refuse to repent of our sin - it will harden our hearts...
 - The danger is we end up rejecting God - prefer to live on in our sin – **Hebrews 3:13**
 - If there is sin - there MUST be correction - caring for someone does not mean ignoring sin!
 - Sin destroys lives - how loving is it to let someone destroy themselves!
 - **Proverbs 27:6** - "Faithful are the wounds of a friend..."
 - EXHORT them like a Father...
 - EXHORT – *parakaleō* – we are to come alongside them like we would our own Dad!
 - When I was growing up – you never talked back to your dad...
 - Even if he was wrong – you were very careful how told him!
 - If we are not careful rather than helping an OLDER MAN – we will offend them...

- Not that we do not CONFRONT sin – but we do it respectfully!
- o 2nd – YOUNGER MEN like bothers... vs. 1
 - YOUNGER MEN – *neos* – meaning newborn or youthful – possibly referring to their salvation...
 - It is easy to dismiss the YOUNGER MEN in the church - think they do not know anything!
 - But recall Paul commanded – do NOT despise youth – **I Timothy 4:12**
 - We are to treat the YOUNGER MEN – as brothers / equals...
 - What they lack in experience – they often make up for in passion and excitement...
 - And the YOUNGER MEN might just surprise us with wisdom God has given to them!
- o 3rd – OLDER WOMEN like mothers... vs. 2
 - OLDER WOMEN – *Presbyteras* - in context referring to ELDERLY women in the church...
 - Now you might ask – who qualifies as an – OLDER WOMAN...
 - The simple answer is – I would rather not say – or even ask...
 - Because if you ever tell a woman she is old – you may not live to regret it!
 - Treat them as MOTHERS...
 - Just as with the MEN - we should ALWAYS show respect to the OLDER WOMEN...
 - We are to TREAT them like we would our own MOTHER...
 - What does the Bible say about how we are to TREAT our MOTHER...
 - **Exodus 20:12** – “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long...”
 - I have noted more and more young people today think they know it all...
 - They have GOOGLE and YOUTUBE – and believe KNOWLEDGE gives them all the answers...
 - But KNOWLEDGE and WISDOM are NOT the same – WISDOM comes with experience!
 - KNOWLEDGE says fire is hot – WISDOM says it is a good idea NOT to touch it!
 - We are to HONOR the OLDER WOMEN in the church – because they have WISDOM...
 - Those who have lived more years on this earth - have learned a thing or two...
 - We are WISE to listen to and learn from their experience!
- o 4th – YOUNGER WOMEN like sisters... vs. 2
 - YOUNGER WOMEN – *neoteras* - referring to the young ladies / possibly new believers...
 - Paul here specifically gives the command to interact with them in ALL PURITY...
 - It would seem CONTEXT here is referring to avoiding sexual sin!
 - PURITY – from the root word for HOLY!
 - **I Thessalonians 4:3** – “This is the will of God, your [holiness]... that you should abstain from sexual immorality...”
 - Men are NOT to treat the young ladies in the church in a disrespectful manner...
 - Guard their eyes – NOT look at women in a lustful way - **Matthew 5:28**
 - Guard their actions - NOT get involved just to get close to the YOUNGER LADIES...
 - Go to church with a motive is to try and get a date - not to serve the Lord...
 - Instead treat the YOUNGER WOMEN as sisters – with ALL PURITY – no ulterior motives!
- 2ND – WIDOWS IN THE CHURCH... vs. 3 / 5-7 / 9-10
 - o 1st – WIDOWS... vs. 3
 - WIDOWS – used 8x just in this passage – a woman who has lost her husband...
 - The Bible has quite a LOT to say about WIDOWS!
 - **Deuteronomy 10:18** – God loves WIDOWS and makes sure they receive justice...
 - **Deuteronomy 24:19** – God provided for WIDOWS – part of the harvest was left for them...
 - **Matthew 23:14** – God judged the religious leaders for stealing from the WIDOWS ...
 - **Mark 12:43** – A WIDOW gave more to the Lord – mite – more than all rulers of Israel...
 - **Acts 6:1** – The first church made sure to provide for the needs of the WIDOWS ...
 - **James 1:27** – Pure religion is visiting the orphans and WIDOWS!

- The point simply being the Lord cares about the widows in the church...
- So here Paul is going to give instruction for how to take care of widows!
- o 2nd – HONOR those who are REALLY widows... vs. 3 / 5-7
 - HONOR (*present imperative*) – *timao* - to give value or importance...
 - Paul is commanding financial provision – HONORING them by providing for them!
 - NOTE – only those who are REALLY widows – meaning not all widows are eligible...
 - You would assume there would only be ONE definition – death of a husband...
 - But the church in ONLY to provide for a TRUE widow – defined by FIVE things!
 - 1 - LEFT ALONE...
 - LEFT ALONE (*perfect passive*) – *monos* – a TRUE widow is solitary or forsaken...
 - This is NOT speaking of divorce (*passive*) but someone who has LOST her family...
 - Meaning she has no family - children or grandchildren – to take care of her!
 - Paul will go into more detail on this in verses 4 and 8!
 - 2 – TRUSTS in God...
 - TRUST (*perfect*) – a TRUE widow puts her HOPE in Jesus...
 - A true widow is one who always trust in the Lord to take care of her...
 - In other words she is not always ASKING for the church to help her...
 - She does not walk around in rags – to show people how poor she is...
 - Instead her confidence is in the Lord – and she trusts in Him to provide!
 - 3 – CONTINUES in PRAYER night and day...
 - CONTINUES (*present indicative*) – *prosmenō* – to ABIDE in – constantly be doing...
 - SUPPLICATIONS - praying for the needs of others...
 - PRAYERS – 37x in NT – having a conversation with God...
 - A TRUE widow is one who constantly takes the time to pray to the Lord!
 - An older widow does not have a lot to offer practically to the church...
 - She is not going to climb up on a ladder and paint the church...
 - She does not have a lot of money to give to help provide for others...
 - But what she can do is dedicate herself to praying for the saints!
 - My grandmother was a widow – and she lived with my family since I was a baby...
 - Every day she would set aside time to pray – for her grandkids / for the church...
 - One reason why God has blessed my life – is the prayers of my grandma!
 - 4 – Does NOT live for pleasure...
 - PLEASURE – 2x in NT – to desire to live in luxury...
 - The church is NOT to help a widow who lives for pleasure – things of this world...
 - She is wasting her time – she is spiritually dead – she is not a TRUE widow...
 - A TRUE widow dedicates her life to serving the Lord – following God!
 - If we only live for momentary pleasure - we are spiritually dead - we miss out on TRUE life...
 - God created for an incredible purpose - to know Him – **Deuteronomy 6:4-5**
 - If we settle for just food / sleep / pleasure - we miss out on the true purpose of life!
 - 5 – BLAMELESS before the Lord...
 - Paul commanded – *parangellō* – these things so the WIDOWS may be (*subjunctive*) ...
 - BLAMELESS - 3x in NT – does not mean perfect – but that she cannot be accused!
 - A widow who is ALONE / TRUSTS in the Lord / night and day PRAYS to the Lord...
 - A widow who does NOT live for this world – will be BLAMELESS before the Lord...
 - And that kind of a widow – is someone the church should take care of!
- o 3rd – PROVIDING for widows... vs. 9-10
 - Let NOT a widow be...
 - TAKEN INTO THE NUMBER – only here NT – put on the list / enrolled...

- Having DEFINED who was a REAL widow...
- Paul three gives additional QUALIFICATIONS - who can be supported as a widow!
- If you want to receive support from the government – you first have to qualify...
- In the same way God gave qualifications for receiving support from the church...
- A check off list for TRUE widows – to see if they could receive help from the church!
- 1 – Under 60 years old...
 - A qualified widow could not be under the age of 60...
 - God did not want any YOUNGER WOMEN to be provided for by the church...
 - The reason for that we will look at more in verse 11-16...
 - The good news is – the Bible says that anyone under 60 is still young!
- 2 – Wife of ONE man...
 - A qualified widow was someone who was married to ONE man...
 - That does not mean that she could not have been married more than once!
 - The famous Christian author Elizabeth Eliot – was married 3 times...
 - Her first husband was killed by natives in Ecuador / the second died of cancer...
 - But she was certainly a godly woman deserving of the care of the church!
 - It means she had a husband - a widow by definition was at one time married...
 - Meaning a woman who was never married – does not qualify...
 - The likely reason is a girl who never married – learned to take care of herself...
 - But a married woman was used to be taken care of by her husband...
 - And with his passing – she is ill-prepared to provide without his help!
- 3 – Reported for GOOD WORKS...
 - REPORTED – *martyreō* - her testimony reveals GOOD – *kalos (external)* – WORKS...
 - A qualified widow must be known everyone by her actions – seen in five ways!
 - NOTE – there are five apparent IF question – all first class – should be SINCE!
 - 1 – SINCE she brought up her own children – presumably to love and follow the Lord...
 - 2 – SINCE she lodged strangers – provided for those who were in need...
 - 3 – SINCE she washed the feet of the saints - she served in the church – helping out...
 - 4 – SINCE she relieved the afflicted – visited those who were in the hospital...
 - 5 – SINCE she has diligently followed every GOOD – *agathos (internal)* – work...
 - Then because of her heart to be a blessing – the church will want to bless her!
 - Acts 9 – Tabitha – presumably a widow - was always serving in the church...
 - She is only woman in the Bible who is given the title - a disciple of Jesus...
 - She did many Good works - faithfully served the saints there in Joppa...
 - Helping out the poor - she even knitted clothes for all the women...
 - The result was Tabitha got sick (died) – the church was willing to do EVERYTHING for her!
 - We often look for others to take care of our needs / but there is no connection...
 - It is ONLY when we care for others – that they then in turn want to care for us!
- 3RD – THE RESPONSIBILITY OF FAMILY... vs. 4 / 8
 - 1st – If any WIDOW has children / or grandchildren (*any descendant*) ... vs. 8
 - Let them learn (*present imperative*) PIETY at home...
 - PIETY – 2x in NT – meaning to show reverence or RESPECT...
 - How do they show RESPECT – by REPAYING their parents!
 - It is the responsibility of the kids / grandkids - to take care of their parents...
 - When they grow old – and need help – we are to provide for them!
 - We are commanded to take care of them – because we owe them...
 - Mom spend the better part of 20+ years taking care of all our needs...

- Changing our diapers when you are young / cooking / and cleaning our clothes...
 - The very least we can do is take care of them when they grow old!
- This is GOOD – *kalos* – and acceptable before God...
 - When my mother passed away – leaving my father a widower...
 - There was discussion about putting him into a nursing home...
 - Instead he came and lived here with us – we are commanded to care for their parents!
 - We are to care for our parents – because it pleases God...
 - The fifth command of God – Honor your Father and Mother – **Exodus 20:12**
 - Part of honoring our father and mother includes caring for them when older!
- o 2nd – If anyone does NOT provide... vs. 8
 - Children who do not provide (*present*) for their parents...
 - Have DENIED (*perfect indicative*) the FAITH – their actions show they do NOT know Jesus...
 - Are WORSE than an UNBELIEVER – speaking of their moral character!
 - People who do NOT know Jesus take care of their aging parents...
 - How much more should we as believers take care of our Dad and Moms...
 - If we ignore our parents - what kind of witness to the world can we be!
 - People always seem to have an excuse why they cannot help...
 - **Mark 10:11-12** – “The Pharisees said it is all right for people to say to their parents, ‘I cannot help you. For I have vowed to give to God what I could have given to you.’”
 - Rather than taking care of their parents by providing for them...
 - The religious leaders taught people could instead give the money to God...
 - If it was given to the church - then they had no obligation to their parents!
 - Jesus rebuked them – because it voided the command of God - **Mark 15:6**
 - There is no excuse not to take care of family...
 - We cannot say we have no money – because God will provide for our needs...
 - We cannot say they do not deserve our help – we owe them our lives...
 - Bottom line – as believers in Jesus we MUST take care of our parents!
- 4th – YOUNGER WIDOWS... vs. 11-16
 - o YOUNGER widows... vs. 11
 - Paul concludes his instructions - by discussing YOUNGER WIDOWS (*under 60*) ...
 - They were NOT to be included in the support of the church – four reasons!
 - o 1st – They begin to grow WANTON... vs. 11-12
 - WANTON (*subjunctive*) against Christ – only here NT – to desire the intimacy of marriage...
 - They will get married – and be CONDEMNED – because they cast off their first FAITH!
 - Being a WIDOW supported by the church – is a commitment to WORK for Jesus!
 - But YOUNG WIDOWS still have the desire for a house / a family / child...
 - So rather than serving the Lord / praying for the saints...
 - They will grow rebellious and bitter towards the church – perhaps even leave the faith!
 - o 2nd – They LEARN to be IDLE... vs. 13
 - LEARN – *manthanō* – to learn by experience and practice / IDLE – to be lazy...
 - Young widows may not use their time wisely...
 - If the church supports a young widow – it means she will NOT have to work...
 - The result will be she will have too much time on her hands!
 - She will WANDER – from house to house – being GOSSIPS and BUSYBODIES...
 - GOSSIPS – only here NT – doing silly things – babbling – talking when they should not...
 - BUSYBODIES – 2x in NT – busy about unimportant things – ignoring the important ones!

- **II Thessalonians 3:11** – “Some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and wasting time meddling in other people’s business...”
- **Rather than serving the Lord she might wander around and become the church gossip!**
- o 3rd – THEREFORE - I desire the YOUNGER WIDOWS marry... vs. 14-15
 - There was no reason for them to remain WIDOWS - they should remarry...
 - Have children - because they still long to have a family...
 - Manage the house – only here NT – employed as the manager of the household...
 - So they would be busy – rather than having too much time on their hands!
 - **There is a stigma in the culture that says a widow should not remarry...**
 - **But God never intended us to be alone in this life – it is normal to want a husband...**
 - **If a widow is under the age of 60 - the Bible says they should remarry – in the Lord!**
 - **I Corinthians 7:39** – “If her husband dies, she is free to remarry... in the Lord.”
 - Give no opportunity to the ADVERSARY...
 - THE ADVERSARY – satan – who would like to bring reproach against the church...
 - Some YOUNG WIDOWS had already turned aside after him...
 - **The implication is they became GOSSIPS and BUSYBODIES – causing division!**
- o 4th – The church can support TRUE widows... vs. 16
 - If any believing family has a WIDOW – let them provide (*imperative*) of her...
 - So that the church has the resources to take care of the TRUE older widows!
 - **The point of which is simple – we are called to CARE for ONE ANOTHER...**
 - **If we have FAMILY that needs help – we are to CARE for them...**
 - **If someone in the church has no one to help – then we are their FAMILY!**