

October 26, 2025
Sermon Notes: House Rules

1. Welcome and Introduction
 - a. Greeting to in-person and online guests.
 - b. Gratitude for what God is doing through Tab Church - we're all part of it!
 - c. Celebration of:
 - i. New staff transitions and leadership development (Summit program).
 - ii. God's work beyond the walls — salvation through Good News Club, church plant in Dourbali, Chad, and agricultural projects supporting indigenous missionaries like Abel.
2. Leadership Built on Character
 - a. Leadership = influence; discipleship = growth in Christ's teaching.
 - b. True leadership is not competency-first, but character-first.
 - i. Competency gets attention; character sustains influence.
 - ii. God values how we lead, not just what we accomplish.
3. The Pace of Leadership: Relationship
 - a. Paul shifts focus in 1 Timothy 5 toward relational leadership.
 - b. Godly leadership advances at the pace of relationship.
 - i. Leadership is personal, not positional.
 - ii. The litmus test: How do we treat those under our care, especially the vulnerable?
 - c. Jesus-centered leadership uses power to *lift up the powerless*.
 - i. "We find life by giving our lives away."
4. Biblical Mandate: Care for the Powerless
 - a. Scripture consistently calls God's people to care for:
 - i. The Foreigner
 - ii. The Widow
 - iii. The Orphan
 - b. Leviticus 19:33-34 - Love the foreigner as yourself.
 - c. James 1:27 - Pure religion cares for orphans and widows.
5. God's Kingdom Is Built Bottom-Up
 - a. God's kingdom advances through sacrificial love, not power structures.
 - b. Jesus modeled this: surrendered His power to save the powerless.
 - c. Core value at Tab: "*We notice the unnoticeable.*"
 - i. We step in when the world steps out.

d. Our ethics reveal our beliefs – how we treat others shows what we truly believe.

6. House Rules for the Family of God (1 Timothy 5:3–8)

- a. Verify the need.
 - i. Not everyone who asks is truly in need.
 - ii. Genuine widows: alone, trusting God, prayerful.
- b. Care starts with the family.
 - i. Blood family has the first responsibility.
 - ii. “If anyone does not provide for his own family... he has denied the faith.” (v. 8)
 - iii. Laziness dishonors God; working hard provides and worships.
- c. The church family steps in where no family exists.
 - i. Generosity must be intentional and well-stewarded.
 - ii. Love requires discernment – *“helping hurts”* when it enables poor choices.

7. Housekeeping for the Church (1 Timothy 5:9–10)

- a. “Trust but verify” – principles for organized generosity.
- b. Widows over 60, faithful in character and service, should be supported.
- c. Those who have lived faithfully (to family and church) are prioritized.
- d. Principle: Life is sacred from the womb to the tomb.
 - i. We honor both the unborn and the elderly.

8. Who Not to Enroll (1 Timothy 5:11–16)

- a. Younger widows should not be placed on lifelong support.
 - i. They are more likely to remarry or fall into idleness.
 - ii. Idleness → gossip → spiritual drift.
- b. Instead, Paul encourages:
 - i. Remarriage, raising families, managing homes, living purposefully.
 - ii. Every day is a gift; don’t waste your life.
- c. Some widows with means should also help care for others in need.

9. Modern Application: Leveraging Influence

- a. Leadership today still follows this principle:
- b. Use influence to raise up the vulnerable.
 - i. Not just financial – relational, practical, spiritual support.
- c. Generational application:
 - i. We reflect heaven’s diversity – including age diversity.
 - ii. Cross-generational ministry honors God.
 - 1. Young men: use your hands to help widows and seniors.
 - 2. Young moms: take your kids to visit a shut-in.
- d. Don’t forget the generation that got you here.

10. Conclusion

- a. Leadership in God's house = caring well for the vulnerable.
- b. Influence and power are not bad — when used to lift others up.
- c. God's family functions best when each member:
 - i. Takes responsibility for their own.
 - ii. Steps in for those who have no one.
 - iii. Lives out sacrificial love in practical ways.