

How The Church Should Work

Based on The Book of 1ST Timothy

Part 5 First Timothy Chapter 5



Generational Respect Page | 1

¹Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, ² older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

The Apostle Paul tells young Pastor Timothy how to treat the members of the body of Christ. He parallels the treatment of our spiritual family with how we would respect and treat our blood relatives. There are certain aspects that God instructs us to respect concerning age. The word “elder” here means “Aged”, and not the church leadership position that is discussed later in this chapter.

Taking Care of The Widows & Elderly

³ Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. ⁴ But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.

Even though most churches don't honor it, the church is still responsible for taking care of the widows and elderly, who can't take care of themselves. It was vitally important when the Church was young because there was no social welfare system in place. Even though we now have Social Security, Medicaid and pensions, the Church should still see to the needs of the elderly members who cannot make ends meet. However, the Apostle Paul makes it clear that if those that are elderly have family

members, the first responsibility falls to their family members to meet the needs.

The Qualifications to Receive Help & Family Obligation

5 The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. 6 But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. 7 Give the people these instructions, so that no one may be open to blame. 8 Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. 9 No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, 10 and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord's people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

The Apostle Paul once again reiterates the importance of family responsibility in taking care of their own. He also lays out guidelines as to the type of elderly widows that can expect to be taken care of by the Church. Paul list some things to look for determining a widow indeed. He does not intend for us to take this list as a checklist to determine whether or not to help someone. For example, he mentions that a widow must be faithful to her husband, but we know that there are many biblical examples of godly women who never married. What he is giving us is Christ like characteristics and not an ultimatum. Paul is not saying all of these must be present or else.

Treatment of The Younger Widows

11 As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. 12 Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. 13 Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also busybodies who talk nonsense, saying things they ought not to. 14 So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. 15 Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.

The younger widows are not permitted to be put on the list because they will remarry. Also, they will become idle and gossips.

16 If any woman who is a believer has widows in her care, she should continue to help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.

Once again Apostle Paul explains that the responsibility first falls on the family or the natural support circle and not the Church. The church must use its money wisely. Therefore a difference is made between those that have other means of support and those that are truly you need.

The Churches Financial Responsibility To Its Leader

17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. 18 For Scripture says, "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."

Spiritual leaders should be willing to preach, teach, Serve, and love God's people, even if they're paid nothing at all however a church that can afford to pay them and refuses, is in violation of the laws of God and cannot be blessed. God's command and plan is that pastors are to be full time and supported by the church. In 1 Corinthians 9:14 God says, “In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel”. Every Churches goal should be to have their spiritual leaders able to concentrate on the building up of the church. Not every church can afford to do that but it should be every church's vision and goal to get there.

Accusations Against Pastors/Church Leader

19 Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. 20 But those elders who are sinning you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning. 21 I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.

Paul deals with both sides of the coin. First he tells us not to quickly believe accusations against Pastors or Church leaders. He says to only entertain it if it is officially brought to the church by at least two witnesses. This negates mere gossip and street talk. He goes on to say “but those elders who are sinning”. The Apostle Paul is not saying that Pastors or leaders are incapable of messing up. He recognizes that there are times when the Pastor must be disciplined. When this happens, the instructions are to make a public example out of them so that others will learn.

Ordaining Leaders

22 Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

23 Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.

This scripture here is talking about ordaining people into positions. The Bible says don't be quick to do it. In other words, it should be well thought out with experience and proof reflected in that person's life. It goes on to say that when we lay hands on people without really knowing their work, we become responsible for whatever sins or shame they bring. In the modern church, most Preaching Ordination takes place on the Associational level. Churches recommend to associations people they would like to see ordained. This still applies. The Church should not recommend a person to be ordained that they are not well familiar with.

Be Watchful and Spirit Led

24 The sins of some are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them. 25 In the same way, good deeds are obvious, and even those that are not obvious cannot remain hidden forever.

Because with the natural eye, we cannot always see a person's sin. We must depend on the spirit of God because some people's errors are not obvious. People can present themselves very well and fool a lot of people. You will not know their true flaws until it's too late. Likewise, if you are doing good and nobody is noticing, it can't stay hid forever.