

Paul's
1st Letter to
Timothy



Lesson 5-Dealing with Widows and Others

Focus: 1 Timothy 5:1-25

- **Loving and dealing well with people from every social position (v.1-5)**
 - Paul had previously stated that he was writing to Timothy so that he would know how to conduct himself "...in the house of God, which is the church of the Living God..." (1 Tim. 3:15). In every line of this letter, and throughout this chapter especially we are seeing the way in which one ought to conduct themselves in the house of God, or, the Church! There is plenty of instruction given here on how to deal with people within, surrounding, and in some cases, without the church.
 - (v.1,2) **Here the instructions are given for dealing with people in the church who are from all places of the social realm.** We should lovingly and respectfully deal with our elders. We aim not to rebuke them sharply, but rather to entreat them respectfully about some issue that needs fixing in the life. The Bible teaches us to respect our elders. We should deal with the younger men as brothers and the women as mothers and sisters. We should have loving and pure respect for all. We must be the **family** of God who acts like a loving family.
 - (v.3-5) The church should help to **care for widows, but the church also must use discretion and good judgment.** A widow who has children or grandchildren under her care should be encouraged and if need be, helped, to raise these children at home and to **teach them the lessons of godliness there in the home.** It is a sacred duty to raise up, train, and care for children who are to be brought up with the knowledge of God and with great respect, love, and devotion to Him. The widow who has children should carry out this duty faithfully at her home (and hopefully be able to care for them financially, by her efforts, the children's efforts, and by the loving and generous help of others who are able to help). **She needs to do a good and godly work of raising those children! That is her duty to God! She is very needed for this work (if truly a godly woman)!! She, a true widow, and a spiritual woman, should be seeking the Lord much in prayers!**
- **Evaluating the case and character of Widows (v.6-10)**
 - *Having poor widows in society is truly a social difficulty that needs to be addressed. As God's people, we should do our best to meet the challenges presented to us. However, as human beings, we do have limits. Therefore, we should focus our efforts on doing the most good for the most people for the longest time. **First, people must be those who desire and make effort to care for themselves. Then, families should care for their own who are in difficulty. Finally, the church should seek to care for those of their own "church family" whom they can help, and who are truly faithful and in need of help.***
 - (v.6-9) Some have not followed God's word, but have lived in pleasure, abused their life and their situation, and then have expected others to care for and pay for their careless lifestyle. We are not to support such things, but are rather to call people to repentance. **We are NOT to pay for careless and wicked living!** Furthermore, a family is required to

care for their own! The church should not be responsible, when **first the family should take their responsibility to care for the one genuinely in need.**

- **There are other qualifications given for widows of whom the church may consider caring for:**
 - *She should be an older woman (above 60 years old).(v.9)*
 - *Having been a faithful woman to her husband—the wife of ONE man.*
 - *She should have been of a faithful and loving character! That is, having the character of a godly woman, having done her part and having served in the church as well (v.10). “Well reported of.” The reference to “washing the saints feet” is a reference to the foot washing service that Jesus established for His followers as the ordinance of humility; to be practiced along with the celebration of the Lord’s Supper (See **John 13:5-17**).*
- **Dealing with Younger Widows, using good discretion, and giving practical care (v.11-16)**
 - *Younger widows should not be accepted into the care of the church. That is too big of a burden for the church. Rather, they should be encouraged to marry again and to be able to survive financially in their new family. Widowhood has been a social problem for many. In lots of cultures the woman does not make much of any money in the working or professional world. The men are usually in a much better place to care financially for the family’s needs. That is often why this has become such a big social problem...and especially for older women who cannot be so easily hired at some good job.*
 - ***Don’t allow a young woman to become lazy under the churches care, and then to run off and get herself married later. NO, the church should not give her money for such things. Just help a woman to find her footing and get herself married again to a new husband.***
 - ***(v.16) Families should FIRST care for their hurting and needy members! That is their duty! (to love each other and to love God).***
- **Dealing with Elders in the Church (v.17-20)**
 - *Deal wisely with elders. Treat them very well and respect them much. But if they live in a sin, then they are to be rebuked before all so that people would fear to sin. And don’t just accept an isolated accusation against your spiritual leadership. Rather, let multiple witnesses speak.*
- **Dealing with self, others, and Evaluating Character of other over time (v.21-25)**
 - *(v.22) Don’t lay hands suddenly on anyone for spiritual office. Give time for character to be demonstrated!*
 - *(v.23) The wine referred to here is grape juice which is proven to be good for the stomach. Alcohol is proven NOT to be good for your stomach but rather injurious.*

Question (s) for the Heart:

Would you like to live wisely by God’s counsel and have good relationships with others? _____(Let us pray for this)