

Title: Taking Care of God's Family

Passage: 1 Timothy 5:1-16

Draft Summary:

- How to speak to others
- How to care for widows

Application:

- Widow: God cares for you as He is the protector of those without protection
- Those with older parents: be responsible for them to honor them.
- Be mindful of how to serve those in need

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What church ministry can you consider to serve others in love?
- What may be some ways you can honor your parents in the present season you are in?
- What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?

Introduction

God's Word doesn't have to be about you to be for you.

- every Scripture is of great value.

Passage:

1 Timothy 5:1-16

Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

Honor widows who are truly widows. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work. But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith. Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not. So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. For some have already strayed after Satan. If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.

EXPOSITION

Context of Passage

Earlier instructions for ministers to focus on preaching and teaching.

- But Paul also added that they are not only to be excellent in teaching but also understand and love the body of Christ.
 - Teaching and life with others
- Biblical counseling is key as well. Not just stating Biblical truth but also how it is applied.
- Great value in Biblical doctrine and interacting with others.
 - A shepherd must smell like its sheep

I. How to speak to others

1 Timothy 5:1

Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

Rebuke

- definition = speak harshly
- This is not meaning never to rebuke someone but how it is done.

Proverbs 28:23

Whoever rebukes a man will afterward find more favor than he who flatters with his tongue.

but encourage him as you would a father

- encourage = respectfully, friendly attitude

Ephesians 6:1

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

- today's culture = man's headship in family is often attacked or undermined.
- Biblical vision = the father is a person of respect because of the position.
 - Doesn't mean can't be wrong. But the way of correction is through kindness and dignity

younger men as brothers,

- correction may be straight-forward but still dignifying.

Proverbs 12:18

There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

older women as mothers,

- correction with respect and honor.

younger women as sisters, in all purity.

- correction with respect as sisters.
- Additional note: "in all purity"
 - Talk in ways that do not imply nor intend any sexual interest.
- Sibling relationship is possible to have a warm interaction with no sexual implications.

II. How to care for widows

- 14 instructions concerning widows.

1 Timothy 5:3

Honor widows who are truly widows.

- widows = one whose husband has died but also neediness.
- “Truly widows” = those who truly are in need.

Honor

- “Honor” = same word of 5th commandment (“Honor your father and mother...”)
- same word as “honorarium” = includes financial commitment and responsibility

Honor widows

- Meaning = help financially those who are truly in need.
- Context: widows without a husband were often left destitute - too often left with stark choices between prostitution or starvation.

Four distinct categories

A. Widows with living relatives

1 Timothy 5:4

But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.

1 Timothy 5:8

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1 Timothy 5:16

If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.

- Christians with aging parents and grandparents = support them
- Why? Shows your genuine faith. Clear display of Christ’s love.
- Also, supporting your family helps relieve the church so it can support those truly in need.

B. Widows in need (eligible for support from local churches)

1 Timothy 5:5

She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day,

1 Timothy 5:9-10

Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work.

- those who are truly in need of financial support are eligible to receive financial support from the local church.

James 1:27

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Psalms 68:5

Father of the fatherless and protector of widows
is God in his holy habitation.

has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day,

- Example: Anna in Luke 2

Luke 2:36-38

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Criteria:

1 Timothy 5:9-10

Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work.

- over 60 (unable to get a job)
- Wife of one husband (not in a polygamist situation)
- Good hearted person shown in conduct

C. Widows not eligible for help

1 Timothy 5:6-7

but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach.

- self-indulgent = living luxurious

D. Widows likely to re-marry / young widows

1 Timothy 5:11-15

But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith. Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not. So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. For some have already strayed after Satan.

- passions draw them away from Christ = sexual passions

APPLICATIONS

A. If a widow/widower:

- God cares for you.
 - He is the protector over those without protection.
 - His heart is beating for you.
- You are free to marry as long as it is someone who loves Christ.
 - Pursue holiness
- Dedicate yourself to service in the Lord.
 - Don't be idle.
 - Invest in ministry at the church.

B. If your mom or dad are older:

- your responsibility to make sure they are taken care of.
 - Not the government's responsibility, it is yours.
- Consider how to pay your parents back after years of care of you.

C. As a church:

- Care for the widows who need your help.
- As Christians, be mindful of how you may serve those in need.
 - Befriend / visit others
 - Show care and support

Romans 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.