

1 Timothy 5:1-6

It's All in the Family

I have titled this message: It is all in the family – because that is what the Church is a Family

A) The church is not a corporation...it's a family!

B) One thing we've observe in the last 200 years of church history...If a church has **people**, that church has **problems!**

1) We are a Fallible Flock of Flawed saints!

How should we treat people w/in the church?

What if an **elderly man** steps out of line & needs rebuked?

What if a **young lady** is after every guy in the church?

How do you counsel the **Don Juan** flirt of the fellowship?

What if an **older lady** is complaining? How do we handle her complaints?

What about **benevolence**? *"I once heard about a person/couple that the church didn't help, they just sent them away?"*

Those are issues that Paul deals with in this section RD V. 1-2

Now in these verses we see one of those profound Biblical insights so frequently found in Scripture, which says that the way you treat people depends on how you see them.

How you look at other people is very important. In the world, almost everyone falls into the category of a **rival** who is trying to get the best of one, or a friend, whom one can use to get ahead.

As Christians, however, we are to have a very different view of other people. **View them as Family**

SO Paul tells this young pastor to look at older men as he would look at his own father;

Older men – Treat them as respected Fathers.

Don't Rebuke – (only occurrence) it describes *a severe verbal pounding!*

Timothy is being told not to "lash out" at older men, but to treat them with respect

But exhort him as a father: What does it mean to **exhort**?

A) Exhortation is encouragement to do what needs to be done; it has the manner of an encouraging coach, helping the athlete to achieve their best.

B) Treat them w/love, respect, & gentleness...rather than w/harsh rebuke. – Preserve their **dignity & worth**.

C) **So, is it ever right to rebuke?** 2 Timothy 4:2 **Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.**

D) **Rebuke** is an important duty of a pastor. It is the simple, clear, presentation that someone is wrong, either in their conduct or thinking.

1) Its main goal is not encouragement as much as to clearly confront someone with their wrong behavior or thinking.

E) In 1 Timothy 5:20 - this very chapter - Timothy is told there are times when not only an elder should be rebuked, but times when he should be rebuked publicly.

In 1 Timothy 5:1, Timothy is not being told to never rebuke, but to not rebuke too harshly.

So It's not **whether we should**; it's **when & how...gently!**

S0 OLDER AS FATHERS

Younger men – Treat them as appreciated brothers.

A) Don't *“talk down to”* younger men. Remember back older men...what was important to us in our 20's?

B) We wanted **respect!** - We wanted to be **treated as equals!** COURSON

C) Paul wanted Timothy to see that the Young men are not his rivals, his enemies; they are his brothers.

1) That relationship speaks of openness and honesty with one another, and yet respect and concern for each other.

Older women – Treat them as esteemed mothers.

A) With respect, love & honor that we would show our own mothers.
Hi Mom !

Analogies – Mom

B) **Younger women** - Treat them w/protection, like your little sister.
Maintain a **purity** that would banish all evil in thought & deed.

Protect her, respect her, set a example for her, don't compromise her integrity.

The body of Christ contains people of all ages, abilities, & levels of maturity.

Being aware of this **diversity** will help us **respect**, & when necessary, **rebuke** the saints in a way that glorifies God & strengthens the church.

Some churches today are trying to gear towards reaching **one** age group. **Is this healthy?** What does a family look like with only sisters, or all fathers? What dynamics would be lacking?

Treat **other people**, the way we would treat members of **our own family**. [church **is** just a family “extension”]

Paul now turns to the problem of widows.

A) No Life Insurance – No Pension Plans – No SS – Woman lost her husband it could be a very serious issue.

B) We see early in the book of Acts that the early Church devised a system for taking care of some of the Widows in their Number

C) So Here Paul gives us instruction about Widows RD V.3-16

3 Kind of Widows:

- 1) Older with Family
- 2) Older without Family – Alone
- 3) Younger –

Older with Family

A) V.4 Older with Family She is the responsibility of the family to take care of her !

B) Told to Honor our Father and Mother – this is a way that we do that !

1) All those yrs they took care of us – the least we can do is take care of them in their later yrs

C) To not do that is sin!

V.8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

D) Context here is dealing with Parents

1) Sad to see Old people in Convalescent homes – neglected by their Kids

E) If She has Family – Their Responsibility: Not the Church

1) Echo's that thought in V.16 –

.16 If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.

F) If she has family she is not to be a Burden of responsibility of the Church

#2 Widow without Family: Different Story – She is to be taken Care of – but there is a Criteria to follow.

1] She's left alone – no relatives to support her. And no source of income, or encouragement.

[2] She is 60 or older (9a)

[3] She puts her trust in God – she has a continuous confidence in God. She “*has fixed her hope on God*” (Williams Translation)

[4] She prays night & day – a metaphor describing a person who prays continually. Anna Luke 2

A) IN the Early Church 60 was old – usually that meant she only had a few yrs to live – Spend those remaining yrs { Serving the Lord by serving in the Church

B) . A woman left a widow at sixty today has, perhaps, twenty years of useful service left. To use those years in running around the world is a terrible waste.

1) 6 But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives.

[5] She was faithful to her husband. (9b)

A) **Wife of one husband – doesn't mean couldn't have been married more than once – Elizabeth Elliot**

B) **Common Custom – Brothers would marry –**

C) **Idea is similar to the Elder Deacon – Husband of one wife**

1) **One woman man - / One man woman**

D) **She wasn't Lose woman**

[6] She is well known for her good deeds Works [NIV] (10a)

A) "One who has brought up children,

B) In the letter to Titus, the apostle urges Titus in Titus 2:3-5

3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things --4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

C) This is the kind of ministry the Word of God encourages older women, especially widows, to have -- to be available to the younger women of the congregation for prayer, for support, for teaching, for understanding.

1) **Biblical women's ministry**

In our congregation there are a lot of younger women who would love to know older women whom they could call up to ask for advice, to pour out their hearts to them and share their struggles and problems with them.

Shown hospitality: Lodged Strangers Washed feet.

Further, she must have "relieved the afflicted."

Idea She has been a Servant to the Body of Christ – Useful – Not a well fare program

Someone who was going to be a Benefit to the body. Pray / Serve/ Mentor

So those are the guidelines for the Older widows – What about for Younger ones

11 But refuse the younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry,12 having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith.

The younger widows would technically be women under sixty years of age, but no doubt Paul had much younger women in mind. It was not likely that a fifty-nine-year-old woman would "bear children" if she remarried! (1 Tim. 5:14)

The dangers of travel, the ravages of disease, war, and a host of other things could rob a young wife of her husband.

But Paul forbade Timothy to enroll the younger widows and put them under the care of the church. *The reasons for refusing them (vv. 11–14a).*

1) **Break her oath by wanting to get married – Which is preferred**

2) **Temptation to be Idle** - *“If idle hands are the devils workshop, then busy hands are God’s tool kit.”*

One doesn’t have to be a young widow to fulfill the description of **they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not**. Those who spend much time talking about other people’s lives need to get a life of their own.

Requirements for younger widows (vv. 14b-15).

14 Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully. 15 For some have already turned aside after Satan.

Moving from the negative, Paul listed the positive things he wanted the younger widows to do to be accepted and approved in the church.

A) He wanted the younger widows to marry and have families. While not every person is supposed to get married, marriage is natural for most people who have been married before.

B) That passage must give fits to the feminists of our day. It urges women to stay home, marry, bear children, take care of their households, and in doing so they will remove the opportunity for the devil to attack and destroy the Christian church.

C) The home has always been the foundation of society.

1) I am not saying that a woman cannot work, if that is needful, but even today it is interesting to see that many of the secular writers are facing the fact that getting a job so as to increase the income does not really solve the basic problems of a home, it brings in more problems.

D) First Ministry is to her family / Kids

“Manage the house” (1 Tim. 5:14) literally means “rule the house.”

A) The wife should manage the affairs of the household, and her husband should trust her to do so (Prov. 31:10–31).

B) Of course, marriage is a partnership; but each partner has a special sphere of responsibility. **Few men can do in a home what a woman can do.**

1) Whenever my wife was ill, or caring for our babies, and I had to manage some of the affairs of the home, I discovered quickly that I was out of my sphere of ministry!

C) The result of all this is a good testimony that silences the accusers.

Satan (the adversary) is always alert to an opportunity to invade and destroy a Christian home.

A) The word *opportunity* is a military term that means “a base of operations.”

A Christian wife who is not doing her job at home gives Satan a beachhead for his operations, and the results are tragic.

B) While there are times when a Christian wife and mother may have to work outside the home, it must not destroy her ministry in the home.

C) The wife who works simply to get luxuries may discover too late that she has lost some necessities.

It may be all right to have what money can buy *if* you do not lose what money cannot buy.

D) How Christian wives and mothers manage their homes can be a testimony to those outside the church.