

1 Timothy 5

Paul is still giving Timothy practical advice on how to get things in order at the congregation

1 Timothy 5.1-8

V1 – Paul goes through the various age groups that Timothy would have to deal with

- Advice concerning older men?** No sharp rebuking, but appealing to them as a father
- How do we correct our fathers?** Very, very gently
- Concerning younger men?** As a physical brother

V2 – **Older woman?** As his mother

- How do we correct our mothers?** – Again, very gently and carefully
- Younger women?** As sisters, in all purity
- Many dangers there that preachers could talk about
- A good preacher will have the policy of not being in the building alone with a woman who is not his wife – a very good policy!

V3 – **How should widows be treated?** With honor

- Who were the “widows indeed”?** True widows who had no relatives at all to take care of them
- The children were to take care of them
- If everyone took this advice today, there would be no need for social security and old folk’s homes and county poor houses, etc.

V5 – **Qualities for the “widow indeed”?** Left alone, but who is still faithful to God

V6 – **Are some widows wicked?** Yes – consumed by pleasure

V7 – Timothy was to teach this well (even if some might get upset over it)

- Can you think of any congregation in the New Testament that had a very serious problem over the treatment of widows?** Jerusalem (*Acts 7*)

V8 – **Responsibility of a Christian?** To take care of his own mother and others in his household

- Think of the social problems that would be eliminated today if we followed Paul’s advice

1 Timothy 5.9-16

V9 – **What is the “list”?** For church support

- We should be very cautious in giving someone regular assistance from the church treasury (many problems can develop)
- At one congregation, we started supplying milk to a family. They soon took it for granted and didn’t come to church and got very upset when we cut them off
- Qualifications for church support?** Must be 60 years old and the wife of one man
- Why this age?** Younger women could get a job
- Why wife of one man?** Much polygamy in First Century (continuing emphasis on this subject)

V10 – **More qualifications?**

- Reputation for good works
- Brought up children
- Shown hospitality to strangers
- Assisted those in distress
- Devoted herself to every good work

V 11 – **What would be the dangers of younger widows?** Would want to get married

V 12 – They would violate their pledge

V 13 – **Another problem with younger widows?** Idleness, gossip, meddling

V 14 – Paul’s instructions to young widows: get married, have children, keep house, and don’t let Satan get control of their lives

V 15 – Some had already fallen away

V 16 – Clearly, the church can assist widows from the church treasury

-Can we also assist orphans from the church treasury? Yes – Read James 1.27

1 Timothy 5.17-23 - instructions concerning elders

V 17 – **Treatment of good elders?** Double honor

- What is the nature of that honor?** Being supported by the congregation
- Notice "elders" (plural)

V 18 – **Scriptural basis for supporting a fulltime elder?** *Deuteronomy 25.4* (don’t muzzle the ox), *Luke 10.7* (laborer is worthy of his wages – said to the seventy sent out on limited commission)

-Where is the passage on paying the preacher? Read 1 Corinthians 9.14

-The same Old Testament passage that Paul applied to paying the preacher is used here concerning paying a full-time elder

V 19 – Basically, how to deal with a problem in the eldership

-How should it be handled? Two or three witnesses

-One Sunday night, we went out to eat after the evening service; it was very comfortable in the restaurant

-But then suddenly it got really hot in there; the air conditioner had been turned off, and the heat had been turned on

-We asked the manager about it as we were leaving; his comment was, “You can’t please everybody”

-One person had complained about it being too cold, so everybody else was made uncomfortable because of that one person

-In the same way, somebody might have a complaint about an elder or about all the elders, but that is not a reason to dissolve the eldership

-There must be 2-3 witnesses for a matter even to be brought up

-How should it be handled? It should be brought before the other elders, or if necessary, before

the whole congregation

V 20 – If the charges are true? Rebuke publicly

-**Why in public?** To encourage others not to fall into the same trap of sin

V 21 – What special instructions did Paul give to Timothy about having to remove an elder? Be very impartial

-In other words, the preacher should not take sides in this kind of church problem

-**Danger of a person taking sides?** He will alienate part of congregation, regardless of whoever “wins”

V 22 – Be very cautious in this matter

-We should always be very cautious in making a charge against an elder

V 23 – Why have instructions about Timothy’s stomach? Stress and ulcers from these church problems

-**Timothy’s view?** That all alcohol was wrong

-That tells us something: that Timothy was a total abstainer, even though he had stomach problems

-**Did Paul tell Timothy to take wine to relax? To feel good?** No

-**Purpose?** Strictly as medicine

-**How much wine was Timothy supposed to take?** A little

Read Romans 14.20-21 and 1 Corinthians 8.12 – If we might offend a weaker Christian, we are not to eat meat (dedicated to idols) or drink wine

1 Timothy 5.24-25 - postscript to description about elders

V 24 – What happens in the long run? Things work out – sin is revealed; the evil person is cast out

-Abraham Lincoln: “You can fool some of the people all of the time...”

V 25 – What happens to good elders? Again, things work out – time will reveal them to be righteous elders

-When we get caught up in a church fight, it is not always possible at that time to see the issues clearly, but time is on the side of truth

-In other words, in the long run things work out in most cases

-It is still God’s plan that we have elders

-It is the hardest job that God has ever given to men in this life, and we are told to make that job as easy as possible – **Read Hebrews 13.17**

-In the Day of Judgment, some people will be totally unprepared to tell God why they violated every word of *Heb. 13:17*

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