

Examining Our Mission: Helping to Restore People

1 Timothy 5:1-25

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Do 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.

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. 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.

1 Timothy 5:1-25, cont.

- 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.

1 Timothy 5:1-25, cont.

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.

1 Timothy 5:1-25, cont.

- 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.
- 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." 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.

1 Timothy 5:1-25, cont.

- 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. 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.
- 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.

Theme: Our church has immeasurable potential to encourage people and replenish hope in broken lives, through restoring relationships, restoring a sense of responsibility, and protecting respect in the church.

Reconciliation and Restoration

- Restore: “To bring back to an original condition”
- Reconcile: “To restore to friendship or harmony”
- Restore people to God, to themselves, to their families, to their responsibilities – returning people to self-respect



The challenges we face today

- Broken marriages, families, and people
- Fewer examples of mature Christian character and Christian commitment
- Today people are looking to please themselves, looking for the easy way out of responsibility.
- Convenience is chosen over commitment, freedom over responsibility
- The unique challenges of legislating compassion by the government – does the church need to do anything today?
- We tend to want to give needy people someone else's money, rather than our own time and compassion.

Without Partiality

“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 of of favoritism” (1 Tim. 5:21).

Matthew Henry: “It ill becomes ministers to be partial, and to have respect of persons, and to prefer one before another upon any secular account. He charges him, by all that is dear, *before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels*, to guard against partiality.”

Without Partiality

John Calvin: “The Greek word προκρίμα ... denotes excessive haste, as when we pronounce a decision at random, without having fully examined the matter; or it denotes immoderate favor, when we render to persons more than is proper, or prefer some persons as being more excellent than others; which, in the decisions of a judge, is always unjust.”

Every home should

- Have security, peace, and harmony
- Teach responsibility
- Show respect to one another

1. Restoring Relationships, 5:1-8

- *"...These should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family..." (1 Timothy 5:4)*
- 5:1-2, Maintaining harmony in the church is important. Show respect to others.
- 5:3-8, Restoring Family Relationships: marriage, parents, family. Show support for and responsibility to others.
- Grace should overshadow all relationships

Good questions to ask ourselves

- Is our family better off to have us as a member?
- Do we encourage or discourage others?
- Do we serve others or help others, or do we expect to be served only?
- Would we want to live with someone like us?
- “Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her” Prov. 31:28.
- If your children were choosing your retirement home today, what would they want for you?

2. Restoring Responsibility, 5:9-16

- *"...known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds" (1 Tim. 5:10)*
- The influence of the temple prostitution in Ephesus had corrupted the habits of women in the city, and the perspective of men also.
- "The list" – Some widows had taken a vow committing themselves to serve the Lord. There is no command that every church should have such a program.
- We each have responsibility to show love, 5:9-10
- And to protect the church in reputation and from abuse, 5:11-16

Generous spirit may yield generous life span, By Marilyn Elias, USA TODAY

“Older adults who live by the adage "it's more blessed to give than to receive" enjoy longer life spans ...suggests a pioneering new study.

“To make sure that "givers" weren't healthier at the outset, researchers took into account their physical and emotional health. They also adjusted for age and gender, smoking, drinking and exercise habits, and personality qualities linked to longevity. There was still a strong tie between giving and staying alive, (University of Michigan psychologist Stephanie) Brown says. But receiving did not prolong life.”

3. Restoring Respect, 5:17-25

- *"The elders who direct the affairs of the church are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching" (1 Tim. 5:17).*
- Respect the elders for the type of work that they do.
- Careless gossip against church leadership damages the reputation of Christ.
- We should protect the reputation of those who serve.

At IBC

- We emphasize servanthood and practice accountability. The deacons are our personnel committee.
- Our personnel policies emphasize the importance of maintaining our Christian walk
- We plan our work – following the strategic objectives and the purposes of the church
- We meet regularly for information, prayer, direction, and encouragement
- We evaluate our ministry performance
- We know we are not perfect

The importance of integrity

- A ship is something that allows us to travel through an alien environment.
- When a ship has lost its integrity, it can no longer protect us from the hostile environment
- The church must maintain its integrity in order to continue to be a redemptive force in this world.
- We cannot redeem, restore, and reconcile if we are corrupted by the world's values.

