

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 27TH-28TH, 2019 // 1 TIMOTHY

FAMILY (1 TIMOTHY 5:1-2)

1 TIMOTHY IS VERY PRACTICAL

This chapter is highly contextual. Some things simply won't make sense because they were written 2000 years ago.

- But it is extremely straightforward and applicable today. **These are timeless principles that transform us!**

THE FIRST TWO VERSES SET THE TONE

Our community should be family!

TREAT MEN LIKE FATHERS AND BROTHERS

We must not talk down to men older than us, but we need to treat them with respect like our own father. On the flip side, we are supposed to treat younger men like our own brothers.

- **If an older man gives advice, we should listen. We need to protect and look out for younger men.**

TREAT WOMEN AS MOTHERS AND SISTERS

Mothers should be the most respected people in our world. Relating to a woman older than you with the reverence of a mother should be a no-brainer.

- The way we view and talk to younger women also matters. **Younger women must be treated with "all purity" like a sister.**

CARING FOR OUR OWN FAMILY

If we are to love and care for others in the church like our own fathers, brothers, moth-ers, and sisters, the assumption is that we love and care for our own family.

- **Verse 8 says those who don't care for their own relatives "are worse than an unbeliever."**
- **How is the relationship with your family?**

SUPPORT (1 TIMOTHY 5:3-10)

FAMILIES SUPPORT THOSE IN NEED

A lot of people think the phrase "God only helps those who help themselves" is bibli-cal. It's not.

Psalm 10:14 says, **"The helpless one entrusts himself to you; you are a helper of the fatherless."**

- **The Church is the body of Jesus and must be compelled to care for those in genuine need.**

WHO ARE THE WIDOWS?

This passage specifically talks about helping widows. And yes, we must help widows! But widows were one of the most marginalized people in 1st Century Rome. **We are called to help the marginalized of our day (homeless, addicted, lonely).**

- Paul provides "valuable principles" to help those in need.

WHO DO WE HELP? THOSE THAT ARE:

- **Truly alone** (no other family or options).
- **Unable to help themselves** (age/health).
- **Devoted** followers of Jesus (prayer).
- **Faithful** to their spouse and children.
- **Known** for the good they have done.
- **Humbly serving** in our church family.
- Have **given** to help others afflicted in the community (giving).

ACCOUNTABILITY(1 TIMOTHY 5:11-16)

EVERY GOOD FAMILY HAS ACCOUNTABILITY

The allowance system. Paul lays out criteria for who we are supposed to help as a church family. But he also makes clear there are some people we should not help.

SUPPORT WITH ACCOUNTABILITY IS TRUE LOVE

If we helped everyone without criteria, we wouldn't really be helping anyone.

WE ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO HELP THOSE WHO:

- Have family that can support them; **we can't rob families of their duty.**
- **Live for their own pleasures.**
- **Are spiritually dead.**
- **Gossip** about others.
- **Cause trouble.**
- Can work and provide for themselves but won't (**laziness**).

FAMILY RULES HELP US TO FOCUS

Paul told Tim, **"Let the church not be burdened"** with requests. We must have criteria and order.

God is a God of order.

HONOR (1 TIMOTHY 5:17-19)

WE SHOULD HONOR THOSE WHO LEAD OUR FAMILIES

"Elders" is the same word as "older men"; the same older men we should treat like fa-thers.

Whether it is our parents or spiritual parents, we ought to honor them (honor your father and mother).

- **We honor our church leaders through pay. Not excessive pay, but simply by not "muzzling an ox."**

WE DON'T ENTERTAIN UNDUE ACCUSATION

We honor leaders by not listening to gossip, false claims, and slander. Pastors and church leaders face a lot of pressures.

- **It doesn't mean leaders are above scrutiny, but we should be very careful. If there are two or three people noticing something, you absolutely need to say something!**

CLARITY (1 TIMOTHY 5:20-25)

A HEALTHY FAMILY HAS BALANCE AND TRANSPARENCY

A lot of church families (and families) have hidden issues. But we want to be a church that brings issues out in the open. God's intention for humanity is to be clear about our lives: **"the man and his wife were naked yet felt no shame."** (Gn 2:25)

- Paul charges Timothy with heavenly authority to practice healthy standards.

BALANCE CREATES CLARITY IN COMMUNITIES

Paul mentions several things to Timothy which should require balance. Hold others accountable **"without prejudice,"** don't show **"favoritism,"** **"don't be too quick to appoint"** leaders, and **"use a little wine."**

- We must have high standards without subscribing to legalism! Jesus actively opposed legalism. It takes balance.

CHURCH FAMILIES DO NOT COVER UP SIN

Timothy was told to "publicly rebuke those who sin." What does this mean? First, "pub-lic" means we bring issues out in the open. Second, the Greek word for "sin" literally means, "those who continue to sin."

- **A healthy community will denounce continual, arrogant sin, and will live a life of transparency.**

HOW DO WE LIVE A LIFE OF TRANSPARENCY?

We "don't share in the sins of others" and we keep ourselves "pure." There is nothing like a pure heart and a pure mind.

- **Whether we live pure lives or not, eventually who we really are comes to the surface. We might as well live transparent lives now, because God sees us anyway.**

SPIRITUAL FAMILY

- Our world longs for family. A lot of us don't experience it in our own homes.
- Do you see this community as a family? Do you view people like your own family members? Or is it just another thing you do on a weekend? **The way we view others affects how we treat them!**
- **The more we grow like Jesus, the more selfless we should become. Do you contribute to the care of others?**
- **Do you serve** others as your own brothers and sisters in this community?
- **"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many."** (Mk 10:45).
- We want to be a transparent community!
- **This place is a family.** If you can't admit your sin here, where can you? If you tell someone today, you're struggling – we're not going to beat you up or push you away. **What you'll find here is authentic love that challenges you to change.**