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## 1 Timothy - The Path of a Disciple

### Session 9 – 1 Timothy 5

Homework: April 19 – April 26

#### 1 Timothy 5 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, <sup>2</sup> older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

<sup>3</sup> Honor widows who are truly widows. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, <sup>6</sup> but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. <sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry <sup>12</sup> and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. <sup>15</sup> For some have already strayed after Satan. <sup>16</sup> If any believing woman has

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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.

<sup>17</sup> Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.<sup>18</sup> For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.”<sup>19</sup> Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>20</sup> As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear. <sup>21</sup> In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality. <sup>22</sup> Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure. <sup>23</sup> (No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.)<sup>24</sup> The sins of some people are conspicuous, going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later. <sup>25</sup> So also good works are conspicuous, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden.

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**Lean In:**

1. Our society is very individualistic, resulting in more people living on their own, isolated and lonely. In what ways can the church be good news to those who are in great need?

**Look Down:**

*Pray that you would be strengthened in your faith in your journey of discipleship.*

Read **1 Timothy 5**

2. In vv1-2, how should the church family relate to one another?
3. In vv. 3, 9-10, what is the criteria for determining whether a widow was truly in need?
4. Read Acts 6:1–7. What strains had the relief work been putting on the apostles' ministry and how was this addressed? Why do you think it was addressed this way?
5. What does the widow do in v.5? How does this contrast with v.6? Why is this important?
6. V. 8, Paul rebukes the Christian who doesn't care for the vulnerable in their own family. How have they denied the faith? Why does this make them worse than an unbeliever?
7. As you read vv. 11-15, what do you think was happening? Why?
8. What do you think is meant by "double honour" in vv. 17-18?
9. List the dangers related to disciplining church leaders vv. 19-21.

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10. List the dangers related to appointing church leaders vv. 22-25.

11. Why is Paul so concerned for the reputation of the church?

**Look Out:**

12. What would you do if an older man were clearly behaving in an unacceptable way and he quoted the verse 'Do not rebuke an older man' whenever anyone attempted to correct him?

13. Is it right for Christians to flirt with one another? What kind of behaviour do you think should exist between Christian men and women?

14. How could your home church become more of a genuine family? What would that look like?

15. How much social action can we get involved in without becoming distracted from sharing the good news? How can the guidelines in 1 Timothy 5 help us as disciples?

**Look In:**

16. Why do you think that for many of us the instructions about families caring for their elderly in vv. 4, 8 & 16 strike an uncomfortable note? What should we seek to do about it?

17. How can you as a Life Group care for people with real needs in your church family? In your community?

**Live it Out:**

List five principles from [1 Timothy 5](#). A principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in the passage that is relevant to your own life. An example is given for you only 4 more to go!

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- *I need to care for the vulnerable in my family.*
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18. The Peoples Church has a Benevolent fund. What do you think it is used for? When do we collect offering for it? How does this relate to the passage we have read this week?

19. How can we build up the reputation of the church within our communities and workplaces?

20. How can we encourage each other to be faithful wherever God has placed us?

**Look Up:**

*Prayers of Thanksgiving*

- Thank our Lord Jesus that by the gift of His Spirit which dwells within us, we can make a difference in the life of another.

*Prayer for*

- D-Group members
- Eyes to see those who are struggling and lonely all around you.
- Ways to encourage each other to be faithful wherever God has placed us.