

1 Timothy 5:1-16 – Christians Treating Others

Hook (10%) – Words of the World

Dance teacher – “I want to live my life my way, and don’t like anybody telling me how to live it.”

Others - “I did it my way (Frank Sinatra).” “You deserve a break today (McDonalds).” “Have it your way (Burger King).” “My Life (Billy Joel).” “Live Your Life for You, Not to Please Expectations (Psychology Today).” “Now you can have ‘me time’ (nurses in the Breast Care Center at FBCH).”

Words of the Word – “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty pride, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus (Philippians 2:3-5).”

In this passage, Paul clearly explains how believers in Christ must treat each other.

How Christians treat others	How should Christians treat others?	Caring for one’s family
Responsibilities of the needy		Caring for the needy in the Church

Book (5%) – Paul in Rome, Timothy in Ephesus, 1st century AD

Look (55%)

How Christians treat others

VV 1-3 – Paul provides a general overview of how people in the Church should treat each other. While these words are directed towards Timothy, they are applicable throughout the Church.

Older men as fathers – younger men as brothers – older women as mothers – younger women as sisters.

- Respect in all relationships, especially the most potentially threatening to a young and insecure pastor, with older men and women. On the flip side, show respect for elders simply because they are elders. Many years of life, especially of life serving Christ in the Church, should count for a lot in the minds of others.
- Purity in all these relationships, especially those most tempting, with younger men and women. Purity must not only be present, but also perceived.
- Even as we wouldn’t (or shouldn’t) ignore members of our own biological families in church, so God forbids us to ignore members of our spiritual family in church, whether we know them or not.
- Recognize those widows who are truly in need (older, no family, no means of support)

People yearn for community. One appeal of the LGBTQ+ movement is the community that it provides to some members. A patient of mine last week practiced Heathenism with his wife because of the community that they found.

Illustration

Wake Up, Little Susie, Wake Up

Wake up, little Susie, wake up
Wake up, little Susie, wake up

We both fell sound asleep
Wake up little Susie and weep

The movie's over, it's four o'clock
And we're in trouble deep

Wake up, little Susie
Wake up, little Susie

Well, what are we gonna tell your **Mama**

What are we gonna tell your **Pa**?
What are we gonna tell your **friends**
When they say, "Ooh la la!"

Wake up, little Susie
Wake up, little Susie

This song describes a young dating couple caught in a bad but innocent situation. How can they minimize the appearance of evil? How can they show due respect to important people in their lives? Has their prior behavior given them a reputation so that people will believe their innocence?

- Philippians 2:3
- James 2 – Do not favor the rich over the poor
- American Girl Felicity 1774 – taught how to keep a conversation going, how to entertain visitors, how to cook and bake, how to change a subject, how to read others' cues and meet their needs.

Discussion Questions and Answers/Application

- How does is our society at teaching us how to treat each other?
- How do you treat your parents, your siblings, and your children? How do they treat you?
- How do others treat you in the church? How do you treat them?
- Do others ignore you in church? Do you ignore them?
- What do we in the church need to learn and teach to treat others better?

Caring for one's family

V4 – Widows must care for their children and grandchildren, thus providing for their families.

- Teaching their children and grandchildren the truth of Christ, and how to thrive in the world
- Providing other support as they are able
- Repaying their deceased parents and grandparents in the cycle of the generations

V7 – Timothy and the other leaders in the church are to teach these things to all the members.

V8 – Believers, all believers, are to help provide for their immediate family and their relatives. The prevailing notion even in the pagan Roman world was that people had to support their own families, including other relatives. For Christians to do less would shame the name of Jesus Christ.

Illustration

Are You Legally Responsible for Your Elderly Parents? Kardashian,

Grandma Harris, "keeping towels for good." The same with china and other niceties.

Discussion Questions and Answers/Application

- Do you support your own family?
- Do you support other needy relatives?
- Do they help you with your needs?
- Do you treat your biological family with the same love and respect that you do outsiders? What about your church family?

Responsibilities of the needy

VV 5-6 – The needy in the Church, typified by widows, first responsibility is to pray intensely and diligently for the Church, and the local church. She is to ask God for help to meet the needs of others and herself. By

contrast, a widow who lives for pleasure is separated from God though she appears to live, spiritually and physically.

VV 9-10 – Expanding on V4, Paul lists other responsibilities of older widows (over 60). What do these look like in church?

- Being faithful to your husband when he was alive.
- Bringing up children –Working in the nursery? Teaching children’s Sunday School? Providing childcare for special events?
- Showing hospitality – Helping with church events? Providing meals for shut-ins? Opening your home for Bible studies? Teaching home and family skills to younger women.
- Washing the feet of saints – supporting church leaders, formal and informal, with loyal obedience and prayer.
- Providing other help for those in trouble (physical, financial, social).
- Doing any good deed that needs to be done, especially those in which she is gifted.

Paul is teaching that if widows do not do these things, they should not receive support from the church.

VV 11-15 – Younger widows were expected to remarry, have children if possible, and manage their households in godliness.

Illustration

- Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's website supporting "economic security to all those who are unable or unwilling to work"
- Ruth the Moabitess gleaned in the fields, prepared food, and supported her mother-in-law Naomi. The Hebrew safety net was not designed so that the needy received food without work.

Discussion Questions and Answers/Application

- What does God teach about people who are unwilling to work?
- By forcing the needy to work, are we blaming the victim?
- Is marriage consistently the right solution for younger men and women in the Church?

Responsibilities to the needy

V16 – The family will provide financially for those who are truly needy, and the Church will assist those who do not have families to care for them (cf. Acts 6). Paul implicitly advocates being wise about who the Church supports.

Matthew 25:31-46 – In Jesus’ famous parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Jesus condemned the goats not for their failure to provide charity to the World, but for their failure to provide charity for His people, the Church. The does not mean that Christians should not give to the poor who are not believers, but that the priority for charity from the Church is to the Church.

James 2 – Meet physical as well as spiritual needs of those who come to you.

[Tax Exempt World \(501\) in Raleigh County WV](#) but Memorial Baptist Church is not listed.

Illustration Hillary Clinton tried to use Luke 9, “You give them something to eat!” to justify more governmental interventional in charity. In reality, it was a sign of the deity of Christ and probably an encouragement to meet the needs of others by the power of God.

Discussion Questions and Answers/Application

- What are we doing as individuals and families to meet the physical needs of others?

- What are we doing as a church?

Took (30%) –

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Verdict – All any person has is Time, Energy, Skills, Focus, and access to Resources. How will you use them in light of the Truth you have just received?

Additional Information - Please visit the MD Harris Institute for more information.

Closing prayer