

## I Timothy – Chapter Five

v. 1,2 – These two verses have to do with how Timothy as a young man should conduct himself in his relationships with various groups. The term “Elder” here is used not as the office of elder but as the age designation of a man. He should be respectful to the elderly father, even in rebuke. Young men were as his brothers and young women were as his sisters and elderly women was as his mother—all treated with love and respect.

Verses 3 to 16 have to do with old and young widows: how they should be treated, which ones should get support from the church.

v. 3 – Honor official widows means mostly give financial support. These are the “widows indeed”. These official widows were put on an official list, indicating that the church would be giving them support. V. 4) but if they had relatives, children, grandchildren, nephews, then these relatives were to take care of the widows. They would not be qualified as a widow indeed, to be put on the list. v. 5 – The widow indeed would have absolutely nothing, and no one; she would take a vow of prayer and devotion to the service of the Lord. v.6) But the widow that lives for pleasure is dead spiritually. v.7) She must be blameless, above reproach. v.8) But if you are a Christian brother or sister, and not taking care of the widow in your family, you are not living up to your profession, and worse than unbelievers, who, not being saved, take care of their family. v. 9) Widow indeed must be at least 60 years old, had been faithful to her husband, 10) good reputation among people, good mother, full of hospitality, especially to strangers, spirit of servanthood (washed the saints feet), been diligent in good works.

v.11-15 – But don’t put the younger widows on the list for they are still young and will want to marry, even after they have vowed service forever to the Lord as an unmarried woman (nun). 12) cast of their faith means gone back on their vow to remain single. 13) having no responsibilities because they are supported by the church, they become idle and get into devilment, going from house to house gossiping and getting into other people’s business. 14) so better that they be busy married, taking care of a husband and raising children, so that they won’t be a target for false teachers. 15) some have already turned aside after Satan. 16) If any man or woman have widows in your family, you take care of them and not the church, leaving funds for the real people in need.

17,18 – Here “Elder” refers to the office of elder. They should be compensated and the ones who work harder, especially in teaching and preaching should receive more.

19-22 – An accusation against an elder must have two or three eyewitnesses, or reject the accusation. But if proven, take action, even publicly so that others will fear. Show no preference, rebuke equally. 22) Lay hands suddenly on no man means to be so quick to make elders without proper vetting, or else you become an accomplice to their sins.

23) Water was polluted and Timothy in his abstinence may have had some health problems so Paul told him to drink wine for medicinal purposes.

24,25) Some sins and good works will proceed a person, and some will be revealed later.