I & II TIMOTHY







LED BY DAN SCHUCH



For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

Timothy

righteous but for lawbre tighteous but for lawbre and treligious and irreligious and irreligious the who kill their fathers



¹Don't rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, ²older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters with all purity.

The Support of Widows

³Support widows who are genuinely in need. ⁴But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them learn to practice godliness toward their own family first and to repay their parents, for this pleases God.

⁵The widow who is truly in need and left all alone has put her hope in God and continues night and day in her petitions and prayers; ⁶however, she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives.

⁷Command this also, so that they will be above reproach. ⁸But if anyone does not provide for his own family, especially for his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

⁹No widow is to be enrolled on the list for support unless she is at least sixty years old, has been the wife of one husband, ¹⁰and is well known for good works—that is, if she has brought up children, shown hospitality,

washed the saints' feet, helped the afflicted, and devoted herself to every good work. 11But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when they are drawn away from Christ by desire, they want to marry

¹²and will therefore receive condemnation because they have renounced their original pledge. ¹³At the same time, they also learn to be idle, going from house to house; they are not only idle, but are also gossips and busybodies, saying things they shouldn't say.

¹⁴Therefore, I want younger women to marry, have children, manage their households, and give the adversary no opportunity to accuse us. 15 For some have already turned away to follow Satan.

¹⁶If any believing woman has widows in her family, let her help them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it can help widows in genuine need.

Honoring the Elders

¹⁷The elders who are good leaders are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. ¹⁸For the Scripture says: Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain, and, "The worker is worthy of his wages."

¹⁹Don't accept an accusation against an elder unless it is supported by two or three witnesses. ²⁰Publicly rebuke those who sin, so that the rest will be afraid.

²¹I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels to observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing out of favoritism. ²²Don't be too quick to appoint anyone as an elder, and don't share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

²³Don't continue drinking only water, but use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses. ²⁴Some people's sins are obvious, preceding them to judgment, but the sins of others surface later.

²⁵Likewise, good works are obvious, and those that are not obvious cannot remain hidden.



³⁶"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

³⁷Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:36-40

Theology vs Practicality

About God (ch 1-4)

About how to treat one another (ch 5-6)

'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

How we "love"/treat one another is a cultural phenomenon dependent upon where we live, when we live, and the culture we live in.

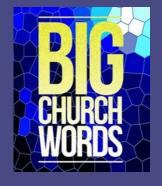
Having said this, we are going to focus on the principal behind the action, not the action itself as the action itself may not apply to the current modern situation.



The Duty to Reprimand

verses 1-2

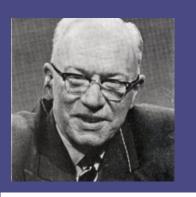




exhort

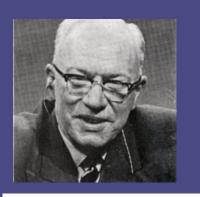
strongly encourage or urge (someone) to do something:

We may reprimand a person in such a way that there is clearly nothing but anger in our voice and nothing but bitterness in our minds and hearts. A rebuke given solely in anger may produce fear; and may cause pain; but it will almost inevitably arouse resentment; and its ultimate effect may well be to confirm the mistaken person in the error of his ways. The rebuke of anger and the reprimand of contemptuous dislike are seldom effective, and far more likely to do harm than good.



William Barclay

It was said of Florence Allshorn, the great missionary teacher, that, when she was Principal of a women's college, she always rebuked her students, when need arose, as it were with her arm around them. The rebuke which clearly comes from love is the only effective one. If we ever have cause to reprimand anyone, we must do so in such a way as to make it clear that we do this, not because we find a cruel pleasure in it, not because we wish to do it, but because we are under the compulsion of love and seek to help, not to hurt.



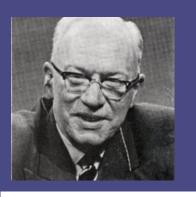
William Barclay



The Support of Widows

verses 2-16

But it was not uncommon in the pagan world, in certain places, for a man to have more than one wife. When a man became a Christian, he could not go on being a polygamist, and therefore had to choose which wife he was going to live with. That meant that some wives had to be sent away and they were clearly in a very unfortunate position. It may be that such women as these were also reckoned as widows and given the support of the Church.



William Barclay

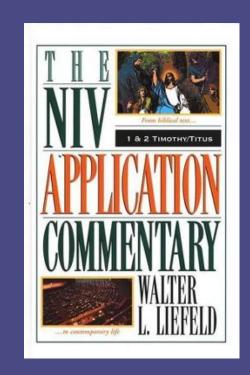
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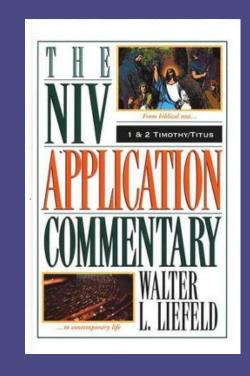
Musa Hasahya Kasera from Lusaka in Uganda has 12 wives and 102 children and admits to not knowing all of his children's names - and has even less recall when it comes to remembering the names of his staggering 578 grandchildren



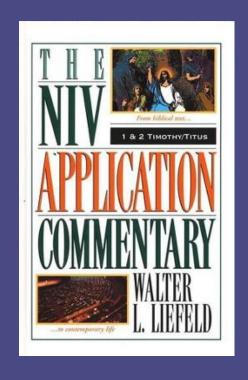
James 1:27 and I Timothy 5 refer to literal widows. There are literal orphans who also need help (James 1:27). There are, however, parallel situations in our contemporary world in which we can express the same blend of doctrine and life in helping those in need. Today there are many divorced people who are alone, hurting, feeling misunderstood, and perhaps having financial need. There are also children of divorces; recent studies have shown that divorce usually has an effect on children that continues even into their adult lives.



They are not orphans, but they are children in need of love, which means understanding and care. There are also children who have been abused. They and abused women (with a few men as well) give opportunity for Christians to combine their faith with practice. In these matters James and the Pastoral Letters share the conviction that "religion" must be blended with deeds. Our churches should be centers of healing.



So far, a good deal of the teaching of I Timothy can be applied with an intelligent and spiritual understanding of the individual circumstances and feelings of the older widow. The instructions for young widows, including the age at which one becomes qualified for support, are more difficult because of the differences in perceptions of aging in different cultures and in different periods of history.





So, what should we do at Valley Life Community Church for "widows and orphans"?



Honoring the Elders

verses 17-25

Let's keep this in perspective. Paul is advising Timothy how to deal with church leaders.



What should we do?



Accusations against church leaders (vs 19)



What do we do against church leaders who "sin" (vs 20)

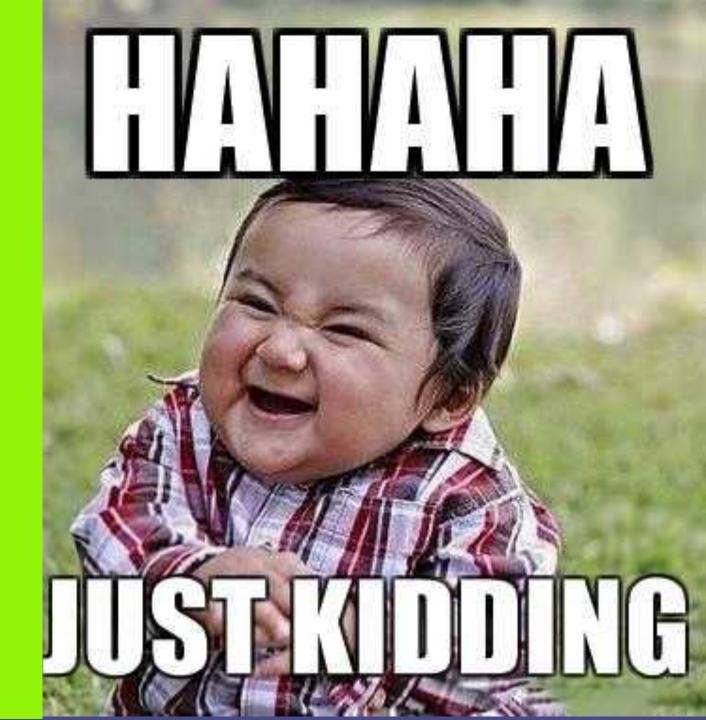


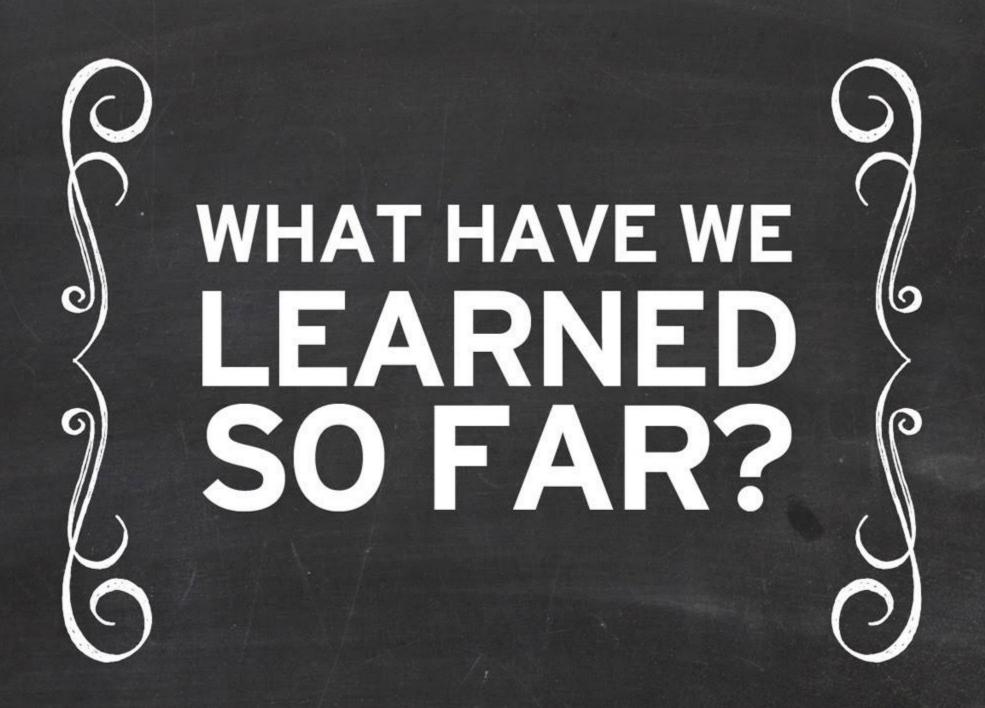
How do we avoid favoritism and prejudice (vs 21)



Don't be quick to appoint church leaders (vs 22)







Questions or comments?



