

1 Timothy 5

Keep your nose straight, eyes focused and mouth shut...and wait on the Lord

Chapter 4:

1. **Religion:** Doctrine of Demons: Coming Apostasy
 2. **Instruction, Edification, and Warning:** Don't stray from the Word
 3. **Take Heed:** To your Life and Ministry
- **Instructions regarding how church leader deals with...**
 1. Older men
 2. Younger men
 3. Older woman
 4. Younger woman
 5. Widows
 6. Elders

I. Correction in the House of God

1 **Do not rebuke** an older man, **but exhort** him as a father, younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity.

OLDER MEN

- Older men should be **respected**

Leviticus 19:32 You shall **rise** before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the LORD.

Proverbs 16:31 The silver-haired head is a **crown of glory**, if it is found in the way of righteousness.

- **Sometimes older men need correction:** Do not rebuke an older man
- **Rebuke:** gr. e-pē-plā's-sō
 1. Only time this word for *rebuke* used in Scripture
 2. **Def.** lit strike/beat upon, chastise with words, take apart

The command is not that Timothy must never rebuke older men, but that he was not to strike at [them] with an overly harsh rebuke. [Guzic]

Pastors are to rebuke as the word is commonly used.

- **Rebuke:** gr. e-le'n-khōto
 1. To tell one's fault. Reveal sin. Pointing out a wrong
 2. Most common meaning

Rebuking is an important *duty* of a Pastor

Titus 2:15 ... exhort, and **rebuke** with all authority. Let no one despise you.

1 Timothy 5:20 Those [Elders] are sinning **rebuke** in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

- Pastor has the *responsibility* to rebuke; point out sin in congregation
- Any believer may be rebuked including the Pastor

How do we accept rebuke? Our response determines the Wise from the Foolish

"A sensible friend who will unsparingly criticize you from week to week will be a far greater blessing to you than a thousand indiscriminating admirers if you have sense enough to bear his treatment, and grace enough to be thankful for it." [Spurgeon]

Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend..

Proverbs 15:31 The ear that hears the rebukes of life **will abide among the wise.** 32 He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, But he who heeds rebuke gets understanding. 33 The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility.

Original language: Paul doesn't say never to rebuke but never rebuke too harshly [Guzic]

- **Do not rebuke "strike at"** an older man; cut down to size
- **Do exhort** an older man as a father
 1. lit. call to ones side for comfort, encouragement, and correction
 2. With respect and dignity

Exhort Older Men; i.e. to encourage/press on to be all God intends: "I know you desire to be a man of God...This is what the Word of God says a man of God does... this is what the Word of God calls you to do... this is who the Word of God calls you to be...by God's Holy Spirit you can be that man of God you desire to be" [NJC]

YOUNGER MEN

- **Younger men who need correction**
 1. Treat as brothers; i.e. those with the same Father
 2. Remember when you were their age
 - a) Trials
 - b) Temptations
 - c) Confusion

OLDER WOMEN

- **Older women who need correction:**
 1. Speak to as you would your own mother; honor
 2. 5th Commandment: Honor your father and mother

YOUNGER WOMEN

- **Younger women who need correction:**
 1. Treat as sisters
 2. Treat with all purity; i.e. Look at their eyes
 3. Not flirtatious in any way

SUMMARY: Correction in the House of God

II. Financial Assistance for True Widows

WIDOWS

3 Honor widows who are really widows.

- Who is to receive financial help from the church?

Many who come to the church for assistance are in need because they have lived their lives for the pleasures of alcohol, drugs, or whatever; now they are in need and they want the church to help. It's legitimate to say, "No." [Guzic]

- **Honor Widows:** Consider financial help for widows who are truly in need

4 But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.

- Children/Grandchildren are to provide for widows *before* the church steps in
- **Double Blessing**
 1. Encouragement to widow
 2. Encouragement to children/grandchildren
- God teaches that we are blessed [happy] when we give...

Acts 20:35 I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

- We are not to be so busy we forget about those in need...

Galatians 2:10 [Other Apostles] desired only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.

- We are to share what God has blessed us with...

Hebrews 13:16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

- Honor widows who are really widows; i.e. those who are without anyone else to help

5 Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day.

- **Genuine Widow:** Truly alone/praying for others; trusting God to provide
- **Hypocritical Widow:** shacking up but desiring monetary benefits of the church...

6 But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives.

- Widow who "lives in pleasure"; i.e. feeding the flesh with luxury and/or sex

It is appropriate to say [to this woman], "You're not living a godly life, so you won't receive financial assistance from the church." [Guzic]

7 And these things command, that they may be blameless.

- I command that the believing children/grandchildren take care of believing widows

8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

- **Deny the faith they claim to have by neglecting their family**

James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

- **Faith leads to Love. Love leads to work...Faith without action is Dead**

James 2:14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

- **"Circumstances prevent me from providing"???**
- Jesus provided for His mother while nailed to a cross:

John 19:26 [Joseph now dead] When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and [John] standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" 27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

- Apostle John took care of the Mary, Jesus mother

9 Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man, 10 well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.

- "True Widows" put on the **Widow List** for financial assistance
 1. Widows sixty or older: Younger can support self or be remarried
 2. Widows that are unmarried
 3. Widows recognized for good works:
 - a) Raised children: Diligence
 - b) Lodged strangers: Hospitality
 - c) Washed feet: Humility
 - d) Relieved the afflicted: Selflessness
 - e) Followed every good work: Model of Godliness

- This one is on the Widows List for assistance

11 But refuse the younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry, 12 having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith. 13 And besides they learn to be

idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.

- Widows who do not make the cut...
 1. **Under Sixty**
 2. **Wanton** against Christ: Feel impulses of sexual desire...lit. "remove restraint"
 3. **Desire to marry**; i.e. consumed by craving a man more than God
 4. **Condemned**: Cast off their first faith
 - a) Jesus loses first place to thoughts of sex/marriage
 - b) Left their first love:
 - a) Learn to be idle
 - b) Wander from house to house
 - c) Gossip
 - d) Busybodies in knowing and broadcasting everybody's business*
- *These don't make the cut to be on the "Widows List"
- Above verses 11-13 are indicators these have turned aside to Satan [v15]

14 Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully. 15 For some have already turned aside after Satan.

- **Instructions younger widows:**
 1. Marry
 2. Have children
 3. Manage the house; i.e. stay home
- **In doing this you will thwart the devils scheme:**
 1. To drive you from Christ
 2. To have others speak ill of/ accuse you of sin

Don't wait to be tempted...Some have not married and have already turned aside to Satan

16 If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.

SUMMARY Honoring Widows Reiterated Theme:

- **If there is believing family...they are to take care of their widows**
 1. Finances
 2. Protection
 3. Other supports

If no believing family, the congregation will take care of widows truly in need

SUMMARY Financial Assistance for True Widows

III. Honoring/Rebuking Elders

ELDERS

17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor...

- Instructions on how congregation is to treat elders; Pastors and Elders
- **Elders who rule well:** Worthy of Double Honor
 1. Fellow Christian
 2. Leader with responsibility for guarding your soul

Hebrews 13:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

- Elders who rule well are worthy of double honor...

17b... **especially** those who **labor** in the **word** and **doctrine**.

- **Labor:** Grow weary, tires or exhausted w/toils or burdens of grief
- **Labor in the word:** Preaching/Teaching

1 Timothy 3:2 [An elder/bishop] ...must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, **able to teach...**

- Labor in word
- **Labor in doctrine:** *Rightly* dividing the Word of Truth

Doubly-honor elders who elder well...especially with regard to teaching/studying

- **What does double honor mean? Pay them...**

18 For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

Deuteronomy 25:4 "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain."

- OT is a physical representation of a NT spiritual truth

Romans 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

- Paul takes an obscure OT law regarding the Ox to teach us a NT Spiritual truth:
 1. If an Ox is walking around a mill producing grain that falls to the ground
 2. Let him eat some of the grain himself...
 3. It would be cruel to muzzle the Ox that is doing the work to produce the food

Spiritual Truth: Church is responsible to compensate those that labor in word and doctrine

"The laborer is worthy of his wages."

19 Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses.

- Do not entertain gossip of wrongdoing about the Pastor/Elders w/out 2-3 witnesses

Hebrews 13:17 Let them do [their work] with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

**There has been and will always be an attack against spiritual leadership.
War never ends.**

Numbers 12:1 Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. ²So they said, "Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" And the Lord heard *it*...⁹ So the anger of the Lord was aroused against them

- **Accusation:** "You must listen to us...we have just as valid suggestions as you do...we need to have a conversation/committee"
- **Result:** Miriam leprous/Moses prays for healing

Numbers 16:1 [Now Korah and associates]...took men; ² and they rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown. ³ They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?"

- **Accusation:** "You are acting as a dictator..."
- **Result:** Korah and followers judged by God

Wanting the admiration without accepting the responsibility. Not called, not anointed and not appointed...just disgruntled. **Where is Jesus?**

- **No leader wants disgruntled members. Three choices**
 1. Leave the church and take your baggage to next church [gossip continues]
 2. Communicate: 90% time worked out. Matthew 18
 3. Accuse the leader and be ready to prove or lose:
- **Thus God's provision/protection for leaders**
 1. Any accusation of impropriety/wrongdoing requires 2-3 witnesses agreement
 2. Any untrue accusation against Pastor/Elders and the accusers must leave the church [This after a 3rd impartial witness introduced]
 3. Cleanse the church of gossipers. Cleanse the church of gossipers

1 Timothy 5:19 is about eliminating gossip from a congregation

Do not receive an accusation...do not listen to gossip

Taken from **8 Flavors of Gossip, 26 Bible Verses** by JEN on MAY 2, 2012

Proverbs 18:8 "The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man's inmost parts."

1. Slander

Spreading rumors or lies about a person to cause damage purposely. The written form of it is libel.

The bible mentions slander countless times in lists like this one:

Colossians 3:8 "But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips"

James 4:11 tells it straight: "Brothers, do not slander one another."

2. Dishing

"Dishing' the dirt" basically means sharing the "juicy info" you learned about someone. Maybe the intent isn't to directly cause damage, but by keeping the gossip alive, it continues to spread and taint the image of the person it's about.

Proverbs 20:19 ... a gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much.

James 5:9 "Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!"

3. Rumors

You hear something, and it's not good, and it's also not confirmed as true. But you tell someone or ask someone else about it to get more info. The rumor mill turns and turns and the gossip spreads.

Proverbs 13:3 "He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin."

4. Backbiting

It's a flavor of gossip that involves speaking spiteful or slanderous words about another who is not present and can do nothing in defense. It's secretive, and the bible actually mentions it by name in

Proverbs 22:23: "The north wind brings forth rain, and a backbiting tongue, angry looks."

Psalms 101:5 "Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy; No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure"

5. Not-Really-Joking Jokes

Have you ever taken some part of truth and turned it into a joke about someone that makes other question their character? It also serves as a passive way to spread more gossip. Example: Maybe he/she will actually get off the couch today long enough to ...

When the joking is harmful to another, it's mockery. How can you know a mocker? It's in the bible.

Proverbs 21:24 "Mockers are proud and haughty; they act with boundless arrogance."

Proverbs 9:8 "A mocker resents correction; he will not consult the wise."

Proverbs 22:10 "Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife; quarrels and insults are ended."

Psalms 1:1 "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers."

6. Planting Seeds

The bible tells us we reap what we sow. With that in mind, this type of gossip is said in such a way to make the listener question or assume something about the character of a person. For example: Isn't it weird how he keeps staring at your girlfriend when you're not looking?

James 3:5 "Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark."

Proverbs 16:28: "A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends."

7. **Whispered Innuendo**

These subtle insinuations can mislead others into thinking wrong thoughts, especially if the conclusions are based on gossipy hunches. Here's an example: It's interesting how he was "out of town" the night she was murdered.

Proverbs 26:30 tells us, "For lack of wood the fire goes out, And where there is no whisperer, contention quiets down."

Luke 12:3 "What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs"

8. **Got-This-All-Wrong Gossip**

You admit you probably got it wrong, but spread it anyway, because it's still touching on some points that could be true. Or would sound exciting if true. Either way, it usually starts out like this: I probably got this all wrong, but apparently...

This is one of the most common types of gossip. We think we're just passing on the latest news. Could it hurt someone? Maybe. But if we don't even know the person, does it matter?

James 4:17 says, "Anyone, then, who know the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."

Matthew 10:26 There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is said whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs"

Do not receive an accusation...do not listen to gossip.

- Pastor is not a whipping-boy to take our frustrations out on
- If you have a leadership you can trust...you are blessed

Hebrews 13:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Legitimate Accusations against an Elder

- **This is a BIG deal: There are real problems in many churches**
 1. **Accusation:** BIG deal: You are [in theory] accusing anointed/appointed
 2. **Offense:** BIG deal because *so many* people get thrashed
- **Serious Accusations** if Legitimate:
 1. Sexual sin: Pornography, Adultery, innuendos, etc.
 2. Financial Accountability: Theft, misuse of funds, etc.
 3. Heresy: Messages do not reflect the Bible and church doctrinal statement

20 Those [elders] who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

- Elder in unrepentant sin is a big deal to God: Those who **ARE sinning:**
 1. Rebuke in from the pulpit
 2. Healthy fear to fellow elders/congregation

Unrepentant? Call them out ...then throw them out...Period.

21 I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels

- Apostle Paul to Pastor Timothy and all Pastors
- **Charge before 3 Witnesses:**
 1. God the Father
 2. God the Son
 3. Elect Angels

21b... observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.

- Follow through with discipline without any favoritism
- Paul wrote to the Corinthians to deliver the unrepentant sinner to Satan

2 Corinthians 2:9 For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things.

- Obedient in ALL things...not just the easy things
- Rebuke an unrepentant elder in the presence of all; i.e. *from the pulpit*. Period

This is not a game. An unrepentant Pastor/Elder destroys people's Faith, Families... and Congregations.

Ordaining Pastors/Elders: Do's and Don'ts

22 Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins

- **Lay hands; i.e. ordaining a new Pastor/Elder**

Dos and don'ts of ordaining a new Pastor/Elder

- **Do not** lay hands hastily
 1. Watch a person's life/doctrine [1 Tim. 4:16] before raising them up [Pride]
- **Do not ordain** someone living in sin
 1. Share in their sin: Those ordaining are connected to the person they ordain

22b...keep yourself pure.

- **Do** keep yourself pure
 1. **Keep Pure:** Lit. Exciting reverence. Enjoying "Awe of God" w/out hindrance
 2. **Not defiled:** Choosing/surrounding yourself with wrong leaders

How to choose Elders: Pray/Listen/Wait for God's will...not hastily

23 No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.

- **Timothy:** Stomach problems from bad water
 1. Wine would act as a purifying agent
 2. Frequent infirmities:

**Why didn't Timothy just pray? He did.
Sometimes God allow thing in our life to keep us calling out to Him**

2 Corinthians 12:7 ...lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- God uses our weakness to show His strength to the world

IV. New Members to the Congregation

24 Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later. 25 Likewise, the good works of some are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden.

- **Context:** Dealing with the Household of God in the local congregation
- **Those that seek to join the congregation: Wide variety of people**
 1. **Some people are clearly those who seek to divide**
 - a) Gossip
 - b) Complaining
 - c) Heresy: Pet doctrines that don match our doctrinal statement
 - d) Divisive: Warn them twice then have nothing to do with them

1 Corinthians 5:11 I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a **reviler**, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.

1 Corinthians 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor **revilers**, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Reviler: Used of injuring another's reputation by denigrating, abusive insults

2. **Some are wolves in sheep's clothing waiting for opportunity to divide**
 - a) Take time to imbed/implant into the congregation
 - b) Make friends; if they were to leave others would follow
 - c) Eventually want to be the center of attention
3. **Some people are clearly servants of Christ from the start**
 - a) Can I clean?
 - b) What can I do?
 - c) What are the needs?
4. **Some are future servants who grow into and begin doing good works**
 - a) Quiet
 - b) Learning
 - c) Joining groups

d) Submissive to the Word of God and Church Leadership

To these we say...Welcome

The Household of God: Complex. Bunch of sinners saved by Grace. Impossible for a congregation to endure without love, humility, forgiveness, a teachable Spirit and the same purpose...to please our God as we pour out self