

**“Speaking the Truth in Love – Confronting Others”, 1 Timothy 5:1-2
Pastor Shawn Newberry, June 7, 2026**

I. Scripture Reference

- 1 Timothy 5:1–2 — respectful pastoral relationships: older men as fathers, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters (in all purity).

II. Context

- Paul commissions Timothy to pastoral oversight of multiple churches in Ephesus.
- Purpose: appoint elders and ensure churches walk close to the Lord.

III. Key Responsibilities for Timothy

- Pastoral leadership across a large urban region (Ephesus):
- Supervise and mentor church leaders.
- Appoint qualified elders to local congregations.
- Preserve doctrinal fidelity and spiritual health.
- Model and enforce appropriate interpersonal conduct:
- Treat older men/women with familial respect.
- Treat younger men/women as brothers/sisters with purity.

IV. Significance and Challenges

- Great responsibility due to Ephesus’s size and influence.
- Need for organization, discernment, and pastoral care across many congregations.

V. Historical Note

- Paul invested three years in establishing the Ephesian church—foundation Timothy was to protect and build upon.

VI. Practical Applications (for church leaders today)

- Prioritize elder selection and training.
- Foster mentoring relationships that reflect Scripture’s familial respect.
- Maintain boundaries and purity in all interactions.
- Recognize the extra demands of ministry in large or influential contexts; provide supports and accountability.

Summary:

In 1 Timothy 5:1–2, Paul teaches Timothy that effective ministry is not merely about teaching truth but about knowing how to love and relate to people. As Timothy shepherds the church in Ephesus, he is instructed to treat older men as fathers, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters in all purity. Paul emphasizes that truth is best received when it is communicated with honor, gentleness, respect, and genuine concern for others. Ministry is fundamentally about people, and every person bears the image of God and deserves dignity and care.

Whether encouraging the elderly, guiding younger believers, honoring women, or maintaining pure motives, Christians are called to build others up rather than tear them down. The passage reminds us that our words reveal our hearts, that kindness and humility are marks of spiritual maturity, and that those who desire to influence others for Christ must first allow God's grace to transform their own hearts.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Paul tells Timothy to approach different groups of people in the church differently rather than using the same approach with everyone?

- What does this teach us about wisdom, relationships, and pastoral ministry?
- How can understanding a person's age, life stage, or experience help us communicate more effectively?

2. Paul tells Timothy to encourage older men "as fathers." What are some practical ways we can show honor and respect while still speaking truth when correction is needed?

- Have you ever received difficult feedback in a way that made you more willing to listen?
- What made the difference?

3. The sermon emphasizes that "you can get more from a teaspoon of sugar than a pound of salt." How have kindness, gentleness, or encouragement impacted your own spiritual growth?

- Why are these qualities often more effective than harsh criticism?
- What Scriptures support this principle?

4. Paul says younger women should be treated "as sisters, in all purity." Beyond avoiding sexual sin, what does it mean to have pure motives in ministry and relationships?

- How can Christians guard against selfish motives, favoritism, or hidden agendas?
- What safeguards help maintain integrity and trust?

5. The central theme of the passage is that ministry is about people. Which group do you find easiest to relate to (older adults, younger adults, men, women, etc.), and which group is most challenging for you?

- What might God be teaching you through those challenges?
- How can you grow in loving and serving all kinds of people as Christ does?

Who in your life right now needs encouragement rather than criticism, and what is one practical way you can build them up this week?