

I Timothy 5 – 11 February 2024

“A Lesson For The ‘Ages’”

Introduction

*For those of you that enjoy outlines, I Timothy’s 6 chapters is outlined as TILDAS

*Teaching, Intimacy, Leaders, Dangers, Aged, & Suspicions

*‘Tilda’ is French word from ancient Germanic for ‘*mighty in battle*’ or ‘*mighty in strength*’

*Key verse of the book (Read) I Tim 1:18

*Paul opened Chap 1 w/ the value of teaching

*In Chap 2, he discusses a manner of praying & teaching in the church that brings intimacy

*In Chap 3, we saw a Christian leader’s character

*In Chap 4, we saw how God’s Word of God can actually become dangerous with misuse

*Chap 5 is a lesson for the ages – acclimating to those of another generation (The schools are 1 age, strange)

It’s been said there are 7 ages of man: spills, drills, thrills, bills, ills, pills...then wills

Today, we’ll see 7 ways to acclimate to the ages

#1 – Respect different age groups as family (Vs 1-2)

Read Vs 1

1. This is the generic use of the word elder as in everyone that is older, not just the leaders
2. This single use harsh word means ‘to strike at’
3. No one that’s a generation older than you, will receive correction from a command voice
4. Don’t needlessly build barriers
5. How can we entreat them as a father?
 - a. Instead of using imperatives, use questions
 - b. “Did you do XYZ?”
6. There’s a family way you treat a brother that’s different than how you treat a coworker or enemy

Read Vs 2

1. For Mothers; use care, patience & indulge in what they need
2. For Sisters; purity, that is the only word needed

#2 – Sustain ‘natural widows’ within the ‘natural family’ (Vs 3-8)

Read Vs 3

1. As it goes on, it will define a widow indeed; they are dependance on the church
2. We’re to support & sustain them as a church

Read Vs 4

1. It’s the natural obligation of children & those in the next generation to care for their older family
 - a. This is what we call “Natural Widows”
2. “To requite” is *to exchange or give back*
 - a. They put money to us, we now put money to them
 - b. They changed our diapers, we now... ha, but true
3. Piety or worship begin in the home
 - a. If you can’t show true worship at home when no one’s looking, it’s just a show when you go to church

Read Vs 5-6

1. We'll come back to speak of Widows Indeed, but they have nothing but dependance on God
2. Vs 6 indicates that many of those that come to the church in need have arrived there b/c of a long life of living in pleasure and self-absorption
 - a. Living a life & raising our kids to live for God bears MUCH fruit late in life
 - b. Living in pleasure bears much distress later

Read Vs 7

1. Learn these things while you're young

Read Vs 8

1. Twice the Bible speaks of those that are “w/o natural affection” or *hard-hearted*
 - a. II Tim 3 is specifically talking of end days
 - i. Jesus tells us why – (Read) Matt 24:12
 - ii. We're self-absorbed & can't help others
2. Story of my Mom coming to live w/ us (14 yr)
 - a. Was a surprise and seems very hard at first
 - b. Turned into a blessing for my whole family

#3 – Sustain ‘widows indeed’ within the church family (Vs 9-10)

Intro - We’ve already seen some attributes

Vs 3 – we need to honor, support and sustain them

Vs 5 – they have important office w/I the church
to pray continually

Now vss 9-10 gives the qualifications for the church to take them considering them their own mom

Read Vs 9

1. Need to have been married and now at least 60
 - a. Idea is if they’re younger they can remarry or support themselves

Read Vs 10

1. Not just an age, but a widow that has already been serving the Lord
2. The widows that the church takes in, don’t just receive a handout, but have enter an exchange
 - a. Church is now, not just their spiritual family, but also their physical family for mutual help

#4 – Encourage ‘young widows’ toward remarriage (Vs 11-16)

Read Vs 11-13

1. Saying no to someone is never intended for their harm
 - a. It’s intended to prompt them into good path
 - b. 3 yr old that wants candy for breakfast...
2. Younger widows have so much more to offer, but human heart always tends toward self & idleness

Read Vs 14-16

1. This is the 3rd time Paul says the natural extended family should provide for widows
2. Even to the extent of encouraging the younger widows to follow the good path of remarriage

#5 – Pay & provide for teaching Elders (Vs 17-18)

Read Vs 17

1. So we’re not just talking of the older men but of the church leaders

- a. Church leaders are to have the blessing returned to them
- b. “Especially to teaching Elders”
 - i. This means that not all Church Elders need to teach but need to be able to

Read Vs 18

1. This isn't some new teaching that Paul is creating but it's long been God's principal
 - a. Paul said to Corinthians (Read) I Cor 9:9-11
 - b. Further in I Cor 9 – Paul says, “I will not force this power over you...although it is right”

#6 – Carefully judge Elders (Vs 19-21)

Read Vs 19

1. Long standing principle (Read) Deut 19:15
 - a. It has to be something seen/known of more than one person
2. In (Read) II Cor 13:1 Paul uses ‘2 or 3 principle’ to also mean a person saying same thing more than once

- a. Don't throw someone out as a sinner for one time saying something amiss – did they repeat it later?

Read Vs 20

1. You correct in front of other b/c it happened in front of others – don't let it linger with them
2. Paul had to do this w/ Peter in Gal 2:11-14

Read Vs 21

1. Don't make too little of sin b/c the sinner has stature or influence
2. Don't make too much of sin b/c your pride wants to bring down a leader

#7 – Use discernment in choosing Elders (Vs 22-25)

Read Vs 22

1. When someone is added to leadership, you're merging your reputation with their reputation
 - a. Their sins will reflect on you

2. Be patience; remember a qual is ‘not a novice’
 - a. Purity is far more important than rapid advancement to the Lord always

Read Vs 23

1. Water could be contaminated, wine kills bacteria
2. There is a time to take medicines
3. Abstaining as a hard rule that actually harms your health is doing more harm than good
 - a. Disciples took grain on the Sabbath for health
4. You ask why didn't God just heal Tim?
 - a. It's not a lack of faith or some sin, but for the glory of God
 - b. Why was this man born blind (John 9:2-3)

Read Vs 24-25

1. Don't be so skeptical the you have to do a Criminal Background check before shaking hands
2. But in context of leaders; deal with the sin we sin, let God deal with the rest
 - a. There's nothing hidden that shall not be revealed

Conclusion

So, how well do you relate to other generations?

1. **Let's respect different age groups as family**
2. **Natural Widows should be sustained within the natural family**
3. **Widows Indeed should be sustained within the church family**
4. **Young Widows should be encouraged to marry**
5. **Teaching Elders should be paid & provided for**
6. **Elders should be judged carefully**
7. **Elders should be chosen w/ patience & discernment**