



# “Faith That Feels Like Family”

Pastor Jason West  
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## I. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God

John 1:12 “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God”

Matthew 12:49-50 “And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.’”

Luke 8:21 “But he answered them, ‘My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.’”

Mark 10:30 “who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.”

## II. Speak With \_\_\_\_\_ Towards One Another

1 Timothy 5:1-2 “Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.”

### A. Older Men – Like Fathers

Leviticus 19:32 “You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.”

### B. Younger Men – Like Brothers

### C. Older Women – Like Mothers

### D. Younger Women – Like Sisters (in all purity)

## II. Care for the \_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 5:3 “Honor widows who are truly widows.”

### A. Knowing God’s \_\_\_\_\_

Deuteronomy 10:18 “He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.”

Psalms 68:5 “Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.”

Psalms 146:9b “he upholds the widow and the fatherless”

Exodus 22:22-24a “You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, and my wrath will burn”

James 1:27a “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction”

## B. Making a Plan to Care For Those Around You

1 Timothy 5:4 “But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.”

1. The Responsibility of the \_\_\_\_\_  
(1 Timothy 5:8)

2. The Responsibility of the \_\_\_\_\_  
(1 Timothy 5:5)

a. \_\_\_\_\_ in God

Psalms 42:5b-6a “Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.”

b. Continue in \_\_\_\_\_  
(1 Timothy 5:5b-6)

c. \_\_\_\_\_ to Those Around You  
(1 Timothy 5:6; 2 Kings 4:2b, 4:5b-7)

## III. Guidelines for Service

### A. Older Widows

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
(1 Timothy 5:9a)

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
(1 Timothy 5:9b)

3. A Reputation of \_\_\_\_\_  
(1 Timothy 5:10)

### B. Younger Widows

1. Complexity and \_\_\_\_\_  
(1 Timothy 5:11-12)

2. Warnings Against Being Idle and \_\_\_\_\_  
(1 Timothy 5:13; Proverbs 6:10-11a, 13:4a)



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## BACKGROUND:

God wants His disciples to treat their spiritual family as if they are members of their own family. Brothers and sisters in Christ are to encourage one another and care for each other, especially those who are vulnerable. There are few more vulnerable than a widow or an orphan. Those who lack a support system are truly dependent on God. In His wisdom, God chooses to show His love through His children.

## DIGGING DEEPER:

**The author of Hebrews reminds us, “But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today”, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness” (Hebrews 3:13). Paul said, “Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing” (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Encouragement has an important role in the spiritual life of a believer. Troubles, trials, and tribulation are a reality of this broken world. Encouragement provides meaning and hope while pointing us to Jesus.**

1. How do you encourage others? How do others encourage you?
2. The apostle Paul had someone in his life who was an encourager, Barnabas, which means, “Son of encouragement”. Who is an “encourager” in your life? How did or do they build you up in your faith?
3. The opposite of encouragement is discouragement. What are some practical ways you can avoid becoming discouraged or discouraging others?

**Paul instructed the church in Galatia, “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers” (Galatians 6:10). Jesus instructed His disciples, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35). Jesus’ brother James said, “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world” (James 1:27).**

4. How do these statements from Paul, Jesus, and James shape your perception about what care looks like within the church?

5. How are we to care for those outside the church?

6. “Honor widows who are truly widows” (1 Timothy 5:3). At times we need to use discernment and qualify who is truly in need versus those who have a support system or can provide for themselves. How do we do this? How do we avoid using this verse as an excuse not to help those who truly need it?

**Paul tells us, “But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (1 Timothy 5:8). Providing for, or caring for one another is a primary way we express love. A lack of love indicates an insincere faith. “If anyone says, ‘I love God’, and hates his brother, he is a liar, for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen” (1 John 4:20).**

7. How can we guard against being indifferent or uncaring toward others?

8. An easy way to offend someone is to not notice when they are in need. How can we become more observant of the needs around us?

9. God tells us to honor widows (1 Timothy 5:3) and to honor our father and mother (Ephesians 6:1-3). What does it mean to honor them?

10. In modern times, many of the widows and widowers are found within our immediate family. How can we repay our parents or grandparents for caring for us when we were young?

## TAKING IT HOME:

**Disciples should honor and care for one another. It’s an expression of love. Jesus commands it. Paul encourages it by reminding Timothy of his responsibility to his flock. He is to encourage them to care for one another. Jesus told Peter, “Feed my lambs” (John 21:15).**

11. In what ways does your community group care for one another?

12. In what ways does Shiloh honor and care for you?

13. How can your group, or the church, honor and care for you by addressing a need you may have?