



A Firm Foundation

FOLLOWING THE FRAMEWORK FOR TRANSFORMATION

Week 9: Church Relations and Wealth

Scripture Focus: 1 Timothy 5:1–6:21

Main Theme: Building a community defined by mutual honor, godly contentment, and radical generosity on the firm foundation of Christ (1 Tim 3:15).

1. Icebreaker & Warm-Up

- **Question:** In your own words, what does "contentment" look like in everyday life? Is there a moment recently where you felt truly content?
- **Context:** Read **1 Timothy 3:15**. As the household of God, our relationships and our relationship with money reflect the firm foundation of the local church.

2. Part 1: Honor in the Household of God (1 Tim. 5:1–6:2)

Paul walks through how we ought to relate to different members within the church—family, widows, elders, and workers.

- **Read 1 Timothy 5:1–2, 5:3–8.**
 - Paul frames church relationships in terms of family (older/younger men and women). How would our church community change if we treated everyone strictly through this family dynamic?
- **Read 1 Timothy 5:17–20.**
 - What does it look like practically to "honor" leaders and elders in the church family today (in terms of respect, support, and care)?
- **Read 1 Timothy 6:1–2.**
 - How does the Gospel transform our work relationships when both employer and employee share a bond in Christ?

3. Part 2: True Contentment vs. The Trap of Wealth (1 Tim. 6:3–10)

Paul warns about false teachers who view godliness as a means to financial gain and addresses the spiritual dangers of loving money.

- **Read 1 Timothy 6:6–10.**
 - Verse 10 states that *the love of money* is a root of all kinds of evil. What are some subtle signs that a desire for money or security is taking root in our hearts?

4. Part 3: Flee, Pursue, Fight, and Store Up (1 Tim. 6:11–21)

Paul shifts from warning to direct action steps for believers and those with material resources.

- **Read 1 Timothy 6:11–12.**
 - Paul gives three rapid-fire commands: **Flee**, **Pursue**, and **Fight the good fight**. What specific things do we need to *flee* from today, and what virtue (faith, love, endurance, gentleness) do you feel called to *pursue* right now?
- **Read 1 Timothy 6:17–19.**
 - What is the difference between placing our hope in the "*uncertainty of riches*" versus "*God, who richly provides*"?
 - How does storing up "treasure for the future" change how we view our bank accounts and personal resources today?

5. Summary & Application

As we wrap up 1 Timothy, Paul invites us to be a:

1. **Community of Honor** (How we treat one another)
 2. **Community of Generosity** (How we hold our money)
 3. **Firm Foundation** (Living out truth in a culture of self-interest)
- **Takeaway Question:** What is **one practical step** you can take this week to cultivate either greater honor toward someone in the church or greater generosity with your wealth?

6. Prayer Focus

- **Confession:** Ask God to reveal any areas where the love of money, materialism, or comparison has taken root.
- **Gratitude:** Thank God for His rich provision and for placing us in a spiritual family.
- **Intercession:** Pray that our group and church would be known as a community of deep honor, radical generosity, and firm faith.