

**Intro:**

- When was the last time you attended a family reunion?
- What was it like?
- Why don't people do those as much anymore?
- In the NT "family" is broader in its definition than how we define it as the nuclear family, have you experienced that "family," in your church experience?
- How can we ensure that kind of experience moving forward?

**1 Timothy 5:1-3**

- How does Paul instruct Timothy to relate to those around him in the church? (As family)
- How is this counter cultural?
- What does this look like played out in your church experience?
- In what ways can you grow in that familial interaction?

**1 Timothy 5:4-16**

- What are the three groups Paul is addressing? (Genuine widows, Families with Widows, Younger Widows)
- Why do you think there are qualifications for widows to be on the church benevolent list? (Anyone connected to the church has a high calling on their lives. This list sounds somewhat similar to the qualifications of elders and deacons. Qualifications are high, not as a reflection of the role we play but in the Christ we serve)
- Describe what it might be like to be a widow in that day?
- Where is care for widows supposed to be? (In the family of God)
  - Trace God's care for widows throughout the Bible
  - Who else is often included with widows? (Orphans/fatherless and foreigners)
  - Why are they all grouped together?
- What does Paul say "godliness" looks like in this passage? (Caring for widows)
  - In what ways could you grow in that kind of godliness?
- Why does Paul tell younger widows to remarry? Is that a timeless command? (1 Cor 7:8-9, 39-40)
  - What is the principle taught here? (flourishing is the goal for all believers, that will look different in different situations)

**Conclusion**

- How can you better meet needs of those in the church?
- Are there those in your household who need care?
- In what ways do you need to "lean," into this church?