

**Title: Not Just a Crowd – A Community**

**Text: 1 Timothy 5:1–8**

**Introduction**

Every person longs to know they are seen, valued, and loved. The church should be the place where that happens most clearly. Paul reminds Timothy that believers should treat one another like family, not strangers. The credibility of the gospel is not only measured by our preaching, but by how we live together as a community.

**1 Corinthians 13:1–3** - “If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal... If I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.” The church is not meant to be just a crowd that gathers, but a **community that cares**.

**1. The Church Should Reflect a Culture of Honour**

**Scripture Passages - 1 Timothy 5:1–2, Romans 12:10, Galatians 6:2**

**1 Timothy 5:1–2** - “Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.”

Paul describes the church as a **spiritual family**. Relationships within the church should resemble family relationships characterized by respect, care, and purity.

A healthy church includes **every generation**—children, youth, young adults, families, and seniors. Instead of separating generations, God’s design is for them to strengthen one another. Young believers benefit from the wisdom of older saints. Older believers are encouraged by the passion and energy of younger generations.

**Romans 12:10** - “Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.”

To honour someone means recognizing the value God has placed on their life. It means treating people with dignity, respect, and appreciation.

**Four Ways to Build a Culture of Honour**

**1. Speak Words That Build People Up**

**2. Show Respect Across Generations**

**3. Notice and Appreciate Faithful Service**

## 4. Care for People in Practical Ways

**Galatians 6:2** - “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

### Discussion Questions

1. What does it practically look like to treat people in the church as fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters?

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2. Why do you think many churches struggle with creating a culture of honour?

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3. Which of the four ways to build a culture of honour do you feel is most needed in the church today?

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## 2. The Church Cares for the Vulnerable

**Scripture Passages** - 1 Timothy 5:3–8, James 1:27, Luke 2:36–38

**1 Timothy 5:3–5** - “Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need...”

In the early church, widows were among the most vulnerable members of society. There was no government support system, so the church became their source of care and dignity. Paul teaches that the church must care for those who truly have no one to help them.

**James 1:27** - “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress...”

Paul also emphasizes that families should take responsibility for caring for their relatives. Caring for family members is part of living out our faith.

**Luke 2:36–38** - Anna, a widow in the temple, devoted her life to prayer and worship. She became an example of faithfulness and devotion.

Paul also encourages the church to exercise **wisdom** in providing support so that generosity promotes godly living and does not enable unhealthy patterns.

## Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think caring for widows, orphans, and vulnerable people is so important to God?

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2. What are some ways the church can wisely care for those in need without enabling unhealthy dependency?

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3. Have you ever experienced a moment when someone from the church noticed or helped you during a difficult time?

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## Three Responses to the Message

### 1. Strengthen Your Commitment to the Church Family

**Application** - Ask God to help you intentionally invest in relationships within the church. Encourage someone this week with a kind word, a prayer, or a simple act of appreciation.

### 2. Show Compassion to Someone in Need

**Application** - Pray this week: “Lord, who do You want me to notice?” Then take action—make a call, visit someone, bring a meal, or offer to pray.

### 3. Align Your Daily Life with Your Faith

**Application** - Evaluate whether your actions reflect your beliefs. Choose to practice your faith through kindness, generosity, and care for others.

**Closing Reflection** - The church is not meant to be just a crowd gathered in a room. It is meant to be a **community that honours one another and cares for the vulnerable.**

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