



## **“Leadership in Relationships & Responsibilities”**

### **1<sup>st</sup> TIMOTHY Chapter 5**

#### **I) Family Matters (v1-16)**

(v1-2) **Older men** - Do not “rebuke” which is to chastise, but rather “exhort;” that is to help, strengthen, comfort, *like a father*.

- **Older women** treat like your *mother*, and *younger women as sisters*, with all *purity* (clean and chaste). The church is seen as family, fathers-mothers-brothers-sisters.

#### **(v3-4) What about the care of widows?**

- **Honor** real widows - the word *honor* means “to show respect or care, to support, to treat graciously.” Real widows with children or grandchildren should be taken care of by them, and not to be a burden to the church. This the apostle calls “showing piety” - *eusebein* - that is, “filial piety;” piety toward a parent by providing for the needs of that parent in advanced age. The word is commonly used to denote piety toward God, but it is also used to denote proper reverence and respect for a parent.

(v5-7) The life of a godly widow left alone – *She trusts God, praying night and day*.

(v6) However, for the ungodly widow who lives for pleasure, do not support her. The Greek word for pleasure is *spatalaoo*, it properly means to live in luxury, voluptuously, immorally, to indulge freely in eating and drinking; to yield to the indulgence of the appetites. This widow is spiritually dead and unregenerate.

#### **(v7) Teach these issues to bring them to a place of blamelessness.**

- Let us look into Widowology - i.e. – *Anna, a widow* – Luke 2:36-38 - *Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.*

#### **~ Jesus ministers to or speaks of widows in the Scriptures:**

- **The widow’s son** – Luke 7:11-17 - *Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those*

*who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people." And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region.*

*- The widow's mite - Luke 21:1-4 - And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.*

*- True religion - James 1:27 - Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.*

*(v8) Rebuke the lazy man - A man who does not work and provide for his family has denied the faith and is worst than an unbeliever.*

*~ Lessons from Wisdom's Work Ethic:*

*1 - Beware of Laziness - Proverbs 24:33-34 – A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest; so shall your poverty come like a prowler, and your need like an armed man.*

*2 - Beware of Selfishness & Foolishness - Proverbs 21:13, 17 -Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard . . . He who loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.*

*3 - Beware of Pride - Proverbs 29:23 - A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.*

*4 - Be Excellent - Prov 22:29 - Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before unknown men.*

*5 - Be Wise - Proverbs 24:3-4- Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.*

*- James exhorts us in James 2:14-26 - What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe — and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham*

*our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

**(v9-10) Qualifications of a legitimate widow to be taken care of by the church:**

**– If the widow does not have the means to take care of herself and no family, then the church should take care of her if: (1) She is over 60 years old.**

**(2) the wife of one man (It does not exclude women who have been married more than once, but it refers to a woman totally devoted and faithful to her husband.)**

**(3) Raised children.**

**(4) Lodged strangers (Christians traveling through doing the work of ministry).**

**(5) Served the church (Involved in ministry).**

**(6) Helped the hurting.**

**(7) Followed every good work.**

**(Dorcas (“gazelle”) resurrected by Peter - Acts 9:36-42)**

**(v11-13) Ungodly young widows - cast off their first faith – One commentator writes, “In classical Gr., “faith” could also mean “pledge.” Taken that way here, it refers to a specific covenant young widows made when asking to be included on the widows’ list. Likely, they promised to devote the rest of their lives in service to the church and the Lord. Though well-meaning at the time of their need and bereavement, they were surely to desire marriage again (see v. 11), and thus renege on their original pledge.”**

**(v14-16) Roles of young women (Proverbs 31:10-31); the reality of the ungodly widows; and the responsibility of men and women regarding their elderly widows.**

## **II) Principles for Pastors (v17-25)**

**(v17-18) “elders” – Overseers, Pastors**

**- labor - “work to the point of fatigue or exhaustion.” The Gr. word stresses the effort behind the work more than the amount of work.**

- Word and doctrine - Or better, “preaching and teaching.” The first emphasizes proclamation, along with exhortation and admonition, and calls for a heart response to the Lord. The second is an essential fortification against heresy and puts more stress on instruction.

- “the laborer is worthy of his wages” - Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 9:7-14 - *Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ. Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.*

(v19) Rules regarding accusations – Must be substantiated by 2 or 3 witnesses.

(v20) Rebuke publicly those who are not willing to turn from sinful practices.

(v21) Handle all areas of ministry without prejudice or partiality.

(v22) Raise up leaders slowly, know their calling, observe their gifting, watch their fruit (0, 30, 60, 100-fold). Do not compromise, even if others in leadership may be compromising.

(v23) Stay healthy!

(v24-25) Time will tell the life of the godly and ungodly. Let us live for the Lord in these last days!

> Final thoughts: In the book Rediscovering Pastoral Ministry we read about the importance of the Shepherd and the Church as follows, “*Ministering in the church constitutes the highest privilege. Nothing could be more honorable or have greater eternal significance than serving our Christ in His church. This privilege is also the most serious responsibility a person can undertake. Fulfilling this privilege and discharging this responsibility demands a comprehension of the church and its ministries that is correct according to God’s Word. In order to grasp the issues of the church and establish that understanding as a foundation for ministry, we need to understand a few basic truths.*”

1) The church is the only institution that our Lord promised to build and to bless (Mt. 16:18).

- 2) The church is the gathering place of true worshipers (Phil. 3:3).
- 3) The church is the most precious assembly on earth since Christ purchased it with His own blood (Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 6:19; Eph. 5:25; Col. 1:20; 1 Peter 1:18; Rev. 1:5).
- 4) The church is the earthly expression of heavenly reality (Mt. 6:10; 18:18).
- 5) The church will ultimately triumph both universally and locally (Mt. 16:18; Phil. 1:6).
- 6) The church is the realm of spiritual fellowship (Heb. 10:22-25; 1 Jn. 1:3,6-7)
- 7) The church is the proclaimer and protector of divine truth (1 Tim. 3:15; Titus 2:1,15).
- 8) The church is the chief place for spiritual edification and growth (Acts 20:32; Eph. 4:11-16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Peter 2:1-2; 2 Peter 3:18).
- 9) The church is the launching pad for world evangelization (Mk. 16:15; Titus 2:11).
- 10) The church is the environment where strong spiritual leadership develops and matures (2 Tim. 2:2)

***In conclusion, “Understanding those truths is the foundation of effective ministry. Unless spiritual men devoted to these realities lead the church, the next generation of churches will not be without blemish . . . Every church leader is a shepherd. A shepherd leads, feeds, nurtures, comforts, corrects, and protects—responsibilities that belong to every churchman. Shepherds are without status. Under the plan God has ordained for the church, leadership is a position of humble, loving service. Church leadership is ministry not management.”***