



Double Honor (I Timothy 5:1-25)

Like Family

“Do not rebuke an **older man**, but exhort him **as a father**, **younger men as brothers**, **older women as mothers**, **younger women as sisters**, with all purity.” I Timothy 5:1-2 NKJV

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☑ The Family of Faith

- ☑ When you became a Christian you became part of a much larger family and that is how you must see life now. Sure you have your blood relatives, but the body of Christ is now also part of your family.
- ☑ When you consider those around you as such, it places a purity safety net under your walk with God. If you treat your fellow Christians as such, it is less likely you will

cross the line of disrespect or indiscretion. Think about it like this...that young lady is my very own blood sister. What I would not do to or say to my sister, I should not do to her.

Widows

“Honor widows who are **really widows**. But **if any widow has children or grandchildren**, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God. **Now she who is really a widow, and left alone**, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. But she who **lives in pleasure** is dead while she lives. And these things command, that they may be blameless. But if anyone does not **provide for his own**, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. Do not let a **widow under sixty** years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the **wife of one man, well reported for good works**: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints’ feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work. But **refuse the younger widows**; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry, having condemnation because they have cast off **their first faith**. And besides they **learn to be idle**,

wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.

Therefore I desire that the **younger widows marry**, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully. For some have already turned aside after Satan. If any believing man or woman has widows, **let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened**, that it may relieve those who are really widows." I Timothy 5:3-16 NKJV

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☑ *"Honor widows who are really widows. But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God." I Timothy 5:3-4 NKJV*

☑ **Obligation to parents and grandparents...**

☑ God's plan for long-term care starts in the home. Paul teaches us this by introducing the idea of repaying your parents and grandparents for all they have done for you. And it must start there. Of course, there are many factors that may make this impossible and there are provisions for those situations, but it must start with the blood family taking care of their own elderly grandparents and parents when the need arises.

- ☑ Paul calls this honor. Reverence begins in the home.
Don't be so concerned about how godly and holy you appear to the outside world. Your immediately family should witness those traits first, and if they don't, then it's all a big show.
- ☑ Paul also uses a curious phrase "really a widow" indicating that it is not enough to have lost a spouse to be considered as a parent or grandparent in need of provision. There are other practical considerations to be evaluated as we will see.
- ☑ *"Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives. And these things command, that they may be blameless." 1 Timothy 5:5-7 NKJV*
- ☑ **Left Alone**
 - ☑ Obviously there are times when a real widow (parameters coming soon) has no one to provide for her. Paul's instructions for her is to get down on your knees day and night and make your needs known God. Then relax and trust that God has a good plan for you.
- ☑ **Widows whooping it up!**

- ☑ However, a woman who has lost her spouse, who then turns to the pleasures of the world for her refuge is not to be honored or provided for. She should be corrected and guided back to godly decision-making. If she refuses, she should be considered as if dead already.

- ☑ *"But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." 1 Timothy 5:8 NKJV*
- ☑ **Provide for you own...**
 - ☑ In the strongest possible admonition, Paul teaches us that if you can provide, you MUST provide for those of your own blood family. This is Christianity 101 and if you will not do that, it's a strong indicator that you are not in the faith at all. He labels this inaction as "worse than an unbeliever." I can only imagine what he means by this is... "It's one thing to not know what you should do; it's altogether worse to know and not do!"

- ☑ *"Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man, well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if*

she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.” 1 Timothy 5:9-10 NKJV

☑ **Who should be counted as one in need?**

☑ Beyond the fact that your spouse has died, there are other parameters to consider in order to be deemed a “real widow.”

☑ You must be under 60 years old. Why? Because there is no reason why a younger woman cannot get out there and take care of herself.

☑ Then, even if of age, it’s not an automatic. She needs to be a godly woman!

☑ Not having gone from one man to another

☑ A great reputation

☑ A responsible attentive mother

☑ Run a hospitable household even to strangers

☑ Served the church

☑ Met the needs of those suffering

☑ Diligent practice of her faith

☑ *“But refuse the younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry, having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith. And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to*

house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.” I Timothy 5:11-13 NKJV

☑ **If you can take care of yourself...**

☑ Younger ladies should be fully capable of taking care of themselves. Besides, if they have nothing to do, their idleness will likely turn to some sinful behaviors.

☑ If they settle into “widowhood” but still have all the desires of a younger woman, their pent up energy will fuel thoughts and action against the faith.

☑ James says it perfectly!

☑ *“Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is **drawn away by his own desires** and enticed. Then, when **desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.**” James 1:13-15 NKJV*

☑ *“Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully. For some have already turned aside after Satan.” I Timothy 5:14-15 NKJV*

☑ **Start over if possible**

- ☑ Here is the bottom line. If a young woman loses her husband, she should look to remarry and continue with her calling as a wife. Anything other than that is likely to be good soil for the enemy to mess with her life.
- ☑ *“If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.” I Timothy 5:16 NKJV*
- ☑ **Take care of your own...**
- ☑ The accommodation for real widows who have no one to step in and care for them is the Church body. But this burden would not fall on the Body of Christ if Christian families took care of the widows in their own family. I would say this extends beyond widows to any elderly parents and grandparents!

Elders

“Let the **elders who rule well** be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the **word and doctrine**. For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer is worthy of his wages.” Do not receive an **accusation** against an elder except from **two or three witnesses**. Those who are **sinning rebuke** in the presence of all, that the rest

also may fear. I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things **without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.** Do not lay hands on anyone **hastily**, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure. No longer drink only water, but **use a little wine** for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities. **Some men's sins are clearly evident**, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later. Likewise, the **good works of some are clearly evident**, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden." I Timothy 5:17-25 NKJV

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☑ *"Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages.""* I Timothy 5:17-18 NKJV

☑ **Laborers for the Kingdom**

☑ **Leaders:** One who is laboring in Kingdom work.

☑ **Rule Well:** One is not a true leader who is not ruling well. This indicates someone who is faithful in every way, spirit, soul and body. Just go back and read the early parts

of this very letter (chapters 1, 3, & 4) and you will see the stipulations for those considered worthy leaders.

☑ **Word:** What does it mean to labor in Word. This is the person who wrestles with God's Word day in and day out! Someone who has become adept and knowledgeable in the Scriptures, and is living by God's Word.

☑ **Doctrine:** A expert in the teachings of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Not prone to making up his own religion with his own set of beliefs.

☑ **Renumeration**

☑ **The Ox:** it's a simple concept. You would never expect an ox to labor in the field without feeding, as needed, from the field it labors in.

☑ **The Kingdom Worker:** the same is true for those who labor in word and doctrine for the kingdom!

☑ **Paul elaborates on this concept in detail to the Corinthian Church**

☑ No Better ways to explain it!

☑ "Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? **Are you not my work in the Lord?** If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who examine me is this: **Do**

we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? **Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? 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?” I Corinthians 9:1-11 NKJV



“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.** But I have used none of these things, nor have I written these things that it should be done so to me; for it would be better for me to die than that anyone should make my boasting void. For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, **woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!** For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I **have been entrusted with a stewardship.** What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, **I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel.**" I Corinthians 9:12-18 NKJV

- ☑ *"Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear. I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality. Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure."* I Timothy 5:19-22 NKJV

☑ Standard Operating Procedures

- ☑ **Handling Accusations:** first be sure the accusation is true. You must have at least two witness to establish a matter as true. This is why Y'shua released the woman accused of adultery (Read John 8:1-11). There were no witnessed to establish the veracity of the accusation.

☑ *"One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; **by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.**"* Deuteronomy 19:15 NKJV

☑ *"When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "**Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?**" She said, "**No one, Lord.**" And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.""*
John 8:10-11 NKJV

- ☑ **Sentencing Guidelines:** if someone is found guilty, best to expose them to the people as a deterrent for others to get caught away in the same sin! Harsh but effective!

☑ The Charge

- ☑ **Without prejudice:** you must have a fair assessment free from what you "already think"!

- ☑ **Without partiality:** you must not let any outside factors or personal biases taint your evaluation and judgment.
- ☑ **Get the facts...**
 - ☑ **Don't be hasty:** don't be so quick to come to a conclusion. Take your time. Getting the answer right is more important than getting the answer quickly. If you jump to a conclusion, you are likely to be as guilty as the person you are investigating.
 - ☑ **Keep yourself pure:** you must be a person free of adulteration or contamination, body, soul and spirit, if you are in a place of assessing others.
- ☑ *"No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities." I Timothy 5:23 NKJV*
- ☑ **Water Purification**
 - ☑ This is a practical piece of advice. Parasites are common and alcohol purifies water. It seems that Timothy had some stomach issue that required attention to this problem.
- ☑ *"Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later. Likewise, the*

good works of some are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden.” I Timothy 5:24-25 NKJV

☑ **Clearly Evident**

- ☑ **Sins:** At times men’s sins lead instantly to exposure and consequences. At other times the negative outcome shows up later on.
- ☑ **Good Works:** it is the same for the “consequences” of doing good. They sometimes show up right away, and sometimes you just must be patient.
- ☑ In the end you can be sure of this, everyone gets what is coming to them.

NEXT TEACHING

Godliness with Contentment (I Timothy 6:1-21)