### 1 Timothy

## Chapter 5

1Don’t be too harsh with older men… Speak to them as you would to fathers, to younger men as brothers, 2to older women as mothers, and to younger women as sisters, with all purity.  
  
3Show honor to the widows who are really living as widows.  
  
4However, if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn the lesson of how to show deep respect inside their own families – by paying what they owe to their parents and grandparents… For in God’s sight, that’s the right thing to do.  
  
5Now, a [truly-worthy] widow is one who’s been left on her own, and because she puts her hope in God, she keeps begging Him in her prayers both night and day.  
  
6However, [a widow] who lives alone for pleasure is already ‘dead’ while she’s still alive.  
  
7So you must always teach them this, so they’ll be found blameless:  
  
 8‘If you don’t provide for [those who are] your own (especially for those in your own households), you’ve denied the faith and you’re worse than an unbeliever!’  
  
9However, put a widow on the list if:  
  
 • She’s more than 60 years old,  
 • She’s had just one husband,  
 • 10She’s done good things that can be attested to,  
 • She’s raised children,  
 • She’s been hospitable,  
 • She’s washed the feet of the Holy Ones,  
 • She’s provided for those in difficulty,  
 • She’s followed the course of doing all sorts of good deeds.  
  
11On the other hand, turn down younger widows...  
  
For when they feel the need, they leave the Anointed One because they want to marry! 12And they’re judged for doing this, because they set aside the faith that they had at first, 13while learning wasteful habits such as going around and doing a lot of visiting.  
  
They not only waste time, they also gossip, meddle in other people’s affairs, and talk about things that they shouldn’t.  
  
14I prefer to see younger widows marry, have children, and manage a home. That way, the Opposer isn’t given something over which he can gleefully gloat... 15Yet, some of them have already turned to following the Slanderer.  
  
16So if any believing woman has a widow [in her family], she should take care of this herself, so that the congregation won’t have to handle the burden and can then help those [truly in need].  
  
  
17Also, let the elders who take the lead in a fine way be considered as worthy of a double honor… Especially those who work hard at speaking and teaching!  
  
18For the Scriptures tell us:  
  
 ‘You shouldn’t muzzle a bull when it’s threshing grain.’ [Deuteronomy 25:4]  
  
And that a worker deserves his pay! [reference to Deuteronomy 24:15]  
  
  
19[Also, don’t] accept an accusation against an elder unless there are two or three witnesses. 20However, you should expose those whom you find guilty of sins before all onlookers, so the rest will be afraid [of doing such things].  
  
21Before God, the Anointed Jesus, and the chosen messengers, I solemnly charge you to follow these instructions!  
  
However, don’t reach any conclusions before you’ve heard all the evidence, and never decide because you’re biased one way or the other.  
  
22Also, don’t be too quick to [appoint] any man [to a responsibility], so you aren’t found to be a sharer in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure!  
  
  
23And don’t just drink water, instead you might take a little wine for the sake of your stomach and for your frequent illnesses.  
  
  
24[Remember that] the sins of some people are done in the open and lead directly to judgment. However, the [sins] of the rest will eventually become known... 25For just as many good deeds become widely known, [sins] can’t be kept hidden either.