**1 Timothy 5 – Caring for One Another in God’s Family**

**Read 1 Timothy 5**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How do verses 1-2 encourage us to speak to one another?

* As family. With love, care, and intentionality.
* The way in which we speak to and address each other is important to God.

1. What constitutes widows “truly in need”? How is the church to care for them? What does this tell us about how God provides for those in need?

* An older woman without family to take care of her who has set her hope on God
* They are to be honored and taken care of by the church (as a family would take care of their own elderly), as they dedicate themselves to serving the church.
* God uses the individuals in the church to provide for those who are in need.

1. What does this passage teach us about how we should care for our own family? What does this show about God’s heart for our natural familial relationships?

* We should provide for the needs of those in our own family – otherwise we have denied the faith and are worst than an unbeliever.
* Our natural familial relationships matter to God. We are to not only care for those in the body, but to care for those in need in our earthly families.

1. What do Paul’s instructions regarding younger widows teach us? What are things younger people should look out for? What are things younger people should be doing?

* The widows are those to be committed to the service of the church and to prayer. But younger people are encouraged to live lives (marry, have children, etc) in the world (of course not of the world) and serve God there.
* Younger Christians should watch out for laziness and gossip (v.13). They should also be leery of brashly making pledges (life-long vows to God – as widows make) without wisdom and conviction, because they may later (because they have so much of life left to live) fall into the sin of breaking them.

1. What are Paul’s instructions regarding Elders? How are leaders to be cared for, protected, and admonished?

* The church should pay those who dedicate themselves vocationally to the church. Those who choose to work for the church in lieu of working in secular industry must be sustained by the church as they labor.
* Leaders are protected from frequent accusation unless the story/accusation can be corroborated. This is to protect the leaders from attacks that are prone to come.
* Leaders who do sin/fall publically are to be admonished publically. This is in extreme cases of sin/fallenness. The office of leadership is a visible one and the correction/rebuke of public grievances must be handled publically so that others will not also be led astray.

1. Read the following verses.

*1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (****Ephesians 4:1-3****)*

*14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (****Colossians 3:14)***

Reflecting on these verses, how are the lessons learned from 1 Timothy 5 applicable to you, to our lives, and to our church?

* Further emphasis on the familial relationships in the church. We have to take care and be intentional in how we speak to and treat one another.
* We should care for our earthly families as well and provide for their needs as best we can.
* Young people should strive to live full lives that honor God, avoiding laziness and gossip.
* We should care for our leaders (even financially).
* All of these specific instructions are written ultimately to build up the Body of Christ (church) and to keep the unity if the Spirit through the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:1-3). In order to do so, we need to put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity (Colossians 3:14).