

Lesson Notes:

Caring for Others

In first Timothy the Apostle Paul was preparing Timothy to pastor the church at Ephesus. Paul counseled Timothy in managing relationships. Paul's counsel to Timothy is applicable to the relationships we have in life. Below is a review of Paul's advice to Timothy.

Scriptural Principles

- 1) **Treat older men as Fathers** – In **1 Timothy 5:1-2** Paul tells Timothy to respect older men and to honor them like fathers. I remember the reverence the students had at Ohio State for coach Woody Hayes. They always addressed him with dignity and respect. Greeting him as Coach Hayes, opening the door to the library for him. This is the kind of respect we should show to elderly men.
- 2) **Treat older women as Mothers** – In **1 Timothy 5:1-2** Paul tells Timothy that he should have the same care and respect for older women as he would for his mother. We need to be sure that they are taken care of, that their needs are met.
- 3) **Treat young women as Sisters** – In **1 Timothy 5:1-2** Paul tells Timothy that he should care for young women in the church as a brother takes care of his sister. And this needs to be in total purity. Even though my niece Jessie is several years older than my nephew Max; Max takes complete accountability for her. He makes certain that Jessie is never put into a compromising position. He watches after her to assure that other young men are not teasing her or being aggressive with her when they are out at a pizza shop or restaurant together. Max asks for nothing nor does he expect anything in return. He just wants to assure that his sister is taken care of. This is the way we are to treat young women. With total purity, with complete respect and honor. To meet their needs, protect them from any form of harm that may come their way. Whether it is physical or emotional. This is to be done in complete purity. With no expectation of anything in return. We are to show Older Men, Older Women and Young women the same kind of unconditional love as Jesus has shown us.
- 4) **The needy should be supported only until they can support themselves.** – In **1 Timothy 5:9** Paul refers to supporting the needy until they can get back on their feet. In **2 Thessalonians 3:10** this does not apply to those that refuse to help themselves.
- 5) **We need to take care of our parents and family members.** - In **Timothy 5:3-4** Paul limits church care for widows to those that have no one to care for them. Therefore, we are responsible for our parents and needy family members.
- 6) **We need to have charity for those that are less fortunate.** - Paul instructs us to be charitable in **2 Corinthians 8:13-15**; Jesus encourages charity in **Matthew 25:31-40**

What Jesus Had to say about it

7) Jesus condemned the Pharisees for their treatment of widows – Luke 20:46-47 –
The religious leaders of Christ's time would take money from the church coffers and lavish goods upon themselves while ignoring those in need.

8) Woe to those who take advantage of the elderly, poor, young and widows. – Matthew 23:14 - 15 – During Jesus walk on earth the Pharisees were very strict in their dealings with the elderly, the poor and the down trodden. They required tithing and offerings from people that were starving in the streets and told them that if they did not comply they had no inheritance in heaven. While they themselves sat at the head of the table during weddings and banquets and were proud of the position they had within the temple and within the Jewish society. Jesus made it very clear what he thought of them and the sorrow that awaited them after death.