



## 1 TIMOTHY 5:1-15

Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

3 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. 4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. 5 The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. 6 But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. 7 Give the people these instructions, so that no one may be open to blame. 8 Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

9 No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, 10 and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord's people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

11 As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. 12 Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. 13 Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also busybodies who talk nonsense, saying things they ought not to. 14 So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. 15 Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.

## IV. PRACTICING GODLINESS BY SERVING AND WORKING TO GLORIFYING GOD. (1 TIMOTHY 6:1-2)

- A. New Testament relationship between master and slave (1 Timothy 1:10; Exodus 21:16)
- B. How we work is a reflection on God. (v 1)
- C. Having a believing employer/employee is not a reason to be disrespectful or cut corners. (v 2)
  - 1. Even difficult situations demand obedience. (1 Peter 2:18)
  - 2. Serving God through your work (Ephesians 6:5-8)

## REFLECTIONS

- What is the practice of godliness? Why must we start with the gospel and not our actions when we think of godliness?
- What are some benefits and challenges regarding the church as a family? How have you experienced the church as a family? How are you seeking to be a family to those in our church?
- What do we learn about God through His concern for widows? Why do you think God reveals this about Himself?
- How should the church practice godliness to church leaders?
- What challenges do you face in practicing godliness in your work (work includes anything we do that seeks to make something of the world, i.e. raising children, vocation, art, hobbies, etc.)? How can you practice godliness in your work?