



How Are We to Treat Others?

By Johnny Caruso on August 20, 2021

TODAY'S READING: 1 Timothy 5

Timothy was a young pastor of about 30-35. Paul gave him excellent advice we can glean from in our own lives.

1. Do not rebuke older men. The word *rebuke* literally means do not *strike at*. It is referring to harsh criticism. "*But encourage as you would a father.*" The word *encourage* or *exhort*, depending on the translation, means *to build up and strengthen*. We all know maturity and age are not synonymous, but older men deserve our love and respect.
2. Younger men are to be treated as brothers. This does not mean there is not a time or two that we correct them. But we are to do it in brotherly love.
3. Older women are to be treated as mothers. They are not just to be tolerated but to be loved as you would love and treat your mom. I do not know about you, but my mom always knew where the wooden spoon or some other apparatus was so she could whack me in correction.
4. Younger women are to be treated as our sisters in all purity. We would not look at or treat our own sister with contempt.

We are to treat all of our brothers and sisters in Christ as God sees them and loves them and us despite our weaknesses and sin.

There is a funny old story of an elderly gentleman who had serious hearing problems. Finally, after several years, he went to the doctor. The doctor was able to fit him with hearing aids that gave him even better hearing than when he was a young man. After a month with the hearing aids, the gentleman went back to his doctor. "Your hearing is perfect," the doctor said. "Your family must be really pleased you can hear again." The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

PRAYER: Lord, help us treat others as you treat them and us with long-suffering, mercy and grace.

Have a great weekend. See you in church!

TOMORROW'S READING: Weekend is for catch-up and review.

MONDAY'S READING: 1 Timothy 6

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