



Life in the Family

By Jeff Bedwell on August 19, 2022

TODAY'S READING: 1 Timothy 5

In this fifth chapter of Paul's letter to Timothy, he continues to instruct Timothy and believers throughout the ages on some core principles and practices for being the church of the living God, the family of God (see 1 Timothy 3:15, for the theme verse for the entire letter).

In this chapter, Paul reminds us of how we are to treat one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, the household of God. He identifies several qualities that should mark our lives together in Christ:

- a deliberate respect and love for family members (vv. 1–2)
- a response of giving, compassion, and sacrifice (vv. 3–5)
- godly parameters for behavior (vv. 6, 9–10, 22)
- clear expectations, guidelines, and instructions (vv. 7, 9–16, 21)
- delineation of responsibilities for the common welfare (vs. 8)
- acknowledged methods and unbiased procedures of discipline (vv. 19–20)
- celebration and reward for what is good (vv. 17–18, 25)

All these qualities contribute to the healthy functioning of the church as a family, as the household of the living God.

As you read this chapter today, ask God to bring to your mind someone in our church family. Considering the instructions of this chapter. What is one thing you could do for them today to help live out this new life in the family that God has made us a part of by His grace?

It does not have to be grand or earth shattering. Mother Teresa said, *"If you can't do great things, do little things with great love. If you can't do them with great love, do them with a little love. If you can't do them with a little love, do them anyway. Love grows when people serve."* May God be glorified, and His Kingdom expanded as we live out our new life together in the family of God!

PRAYER: Father, thank You for making me a part of Your Church, the household of God! Guide me today to take one action that expresses what it means to be a part of God's forever family to a brother or sister in Christ today.

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

MONDAY'S READING: 1 Timothy 6

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