



All in the Family

By Shannon Ford on June 24, 2024

TODAY'S READING: 1 Timothy 5

Relationships comprise a significant theme in Paul's writings. He wanted believers to treat one another responsibly, respectfully and lovingly. Chapter 5 can be divided into two sections. Verses 1-16 focus on how to treat the family of God; while verses 17-25 deal with how the church should treat her leaders. As a pastor, Timothy encountered all types of people. Paul reminded him the older men and women were to be treated like fathers and mothers, while the younger people should be considered brothers and sisters.

Of special concern were the widows. Scripture often reminds God's people to care for these women who had no husbands to provide for them (Isa. 1:17; Jas. 1:27). The church gave benevolence assistance to many believers who suffered because of their faith, especially widows. The first deacons were established to lead the ministry to widows (Acts 6:1-6). At the same time, Paul felt the church should not assume responsibility that rightly belonged to widows' families. Some of the widows were younger and able to remarry. Many of the older widows had adult children and extended families capable of providing for their needs.

In verses 7-8, Paul makes it clear that it is not through the church, but through our own hard work, that we are to make provision for ourselves and our families. In the strongest terms, Paul emphasizes that it is the responsibility of a man to provide for his family, that is, to do all he can to support them. Otherwise, such a person has "denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (1 Tim. 5:8). Jesus Himself gave us an example of providing for one's own, when He provided a home for His mother with the beloved disciple John (John 19:26-27). Take time today to thank God for the job you have and the physical ability you have to work and provide for your family.

Godly families are at the heart of a godly and healthy church. As godly families, we each have a responsibility to honor and care for our elderly parents, especially widows. Older parents are their children's responsibility. Widows who should be helped by the church are those who don't have family who can help them. God's Word consistently encourages God's people to care for others as a way of demonstrating love for Him. We bring glory to Him by meeting the needs of our families at home and at church.

PRAYER: Father, we pray that You will continue to give us the ability and strength to accomplish the family responsibilities You assigned to us. I pray that You will strengthen our church and our families to do their work well, supporting and strengthening each other. Amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: 1 Timothy 6

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