

**1 Timothy**  
**The Gospel, Godliness, and The Church**  
***Church Leaders and Church Family***  
**1 Timothy 4:11-5:16; 6:1-2a**

- Read 1 Timothy 4:11-5:2, recognizing that while this was written to a young pastor (Timothy, 30-33 years old), it is good advice for all.
- Read the instructions for taking care of widows in the study notes below, then work your way through a (very) limited verse-by-verse commentary of 1 Timothy 5:3-16 provided here:
  - V 3 – The definition of a “true widow” develops as the text goes. Whether or not a church helps those in need is an indication of church health – see James 1:27
  - V 4 – It is godly to take care of your aging parents and grandparents – and ungodly not to! It would be worth reading Matthew 15:1-9 (see below). How do we do dishonor our parents and grandparents in our day?
  - V 5 – Prayer is always a worthy ministry, and one who trusts in the Lord ministers to every person in the body.
  - V 6 – Oh, how true for every person of both genders at any age!
  - V 7 – A problem with inappropriate/immoral behavior among women at Ephesus Church, and it might well have existed because of the false teaching that was condemned in 1 Timothy 1.
  - V 8 – We want to make this about providing for children, but it is about children providing for parents and grandparents. We have already talked about this in verse 4, but it is worth more discussion since God says that failure to take care of parents and other family members indicates unbelief. Strong words!
  - V 9 – It appears that there was a registry of widows who were eligible for support. Only widows 60 years old and above were eligible, and they must have been married only once. Presumably, those who had been married more than once would have a son who could take care of them. Since the life expectancy for women was 25-30 (many died in childbirth), not many would qualify.
  - V 10 – Think of all that women do for their families and for the church! In addition to all the services listed here, women were (and are!) often tasked with management of their households, and they were the primary

caregivers for aging parents/grandparents (see v 16), as well as their children.

- Vv. 11-13 – This must have been an issue of the day. Idleness is never good. I do not mean that rest is bad – we are designed to get rest – but undisciplined hours and hours on social media cannot be good for anyone (to bring it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century).
  - V 14 – Admittedly, widows do not have the need for strong financial support that they did before, but remember that marriage is for this life. While it might not be good for a widow (or widower) to remarry within months of losing a spouse, God’s design includes marriage. Have you had a parent remarry after losing your other parent? Do you accept that it is part of God’s design for humans? I know that often a child can see what a parent cannot in a potential step-parent, but be gentle with your bereaved parent or friend.
  - V 15 – Once again, this could relate to the false teaching of chapter 1, so Paul was not making a general statement about women as gossipers, busybodies, etc. These were apostates, and almost certainly there were some in the church.
  - V 16 – Encouragement to follow created order.
- Was speaking to slaves in 1 Timothy 6:1-2a. There is not only application for workers in these verses, but for all believers in all relationships. It is not just our culture that works against such a posture, but the world always promotes self-indulgence. What has helped you and what ways might you respond to the Holy Spirit’s power to live accordingly?

## **Study Notes**

### **Thoughts and Quotes from the Sermon**

### **Instructions for Taking Care of Widows**

1. When it comes to those in need, the church’s first responsibility is to take care of its own
2. Assistance is not available for all, nor is it guaranteed for those who are eligible
3. Following God’s creation mandate is affirmed and expected
4. While it might appear that assistance must be earned, it is more a reward for service rendered
5. Serving the Lord and serving others is a safeguard against worldly distractions that lead us away from Christ

**Robert Yarborough on 1 Timothy 4:15** A lukewarm minister is a self-contradiction. While there is a danger of taking oneself too seriously, there is also the opposite error of approaching a task too casually, lacking urgency and a due sense of a task's gravity.

### Scripture Associated with the Message

**Galatians 6:10** So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

**James 1:27** Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

**Psalms 68:4** Sing to God, sing praises to his name;  
lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts;  
his name is the Lord;  
exult before him!

**5 Father of the fatherless and protector of widows  
is God in his holy habitation.**

**Luke 7:11** Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. 12 As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. 13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." 14 Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." 15 And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

**Genesis 1:27** So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
**male and female he created them.**

28 And God blessed them. **And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth** and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

**Matthew 15:1** Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, 2 "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat." 3 He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? 4 For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.'

5 But you say, ‘If anyone tells his father or his mother, “What you would have gained from me is given to God,” 6 he need not honor his father.’ So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. 7 You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:

8 “‘This people honors me with their lips,  
but their heart is far from me;  
9 in vain do they worship me,  
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’”

**1 Corinthians 7:21** Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.)

**Colossians 4:5** Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

**Matthew 12:34** . . . out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

**Nehemiah 8:5** And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood.

**2 Timothy 1:6** For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands,

**2 Timothy 1:9** (God) saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.