



1 TIMOTHY

A Field Guide for the Family of God

How to Help One Another

1 Timothy 5 (ESV)

1 Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity. 3 Honor widows who are truly widows. 4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.

1 Timothy 5 (ESV)

5 She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, 6 but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. 7 Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. 8 But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1 Timothy 5 (ESV)

9 Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, 10 and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work. 11 But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry 12 and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith.

1 Timothy 5 (ESV)

13 Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not. 14 So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. 15 For some have already strayed after Satan. 16 If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.

The Point

As God's family, we are called to honor, care for, and serve one another with love and wisdom.

SPEAK
LIFE
INTO
OTHERS.

Speak Life Into Others

- Paul teaches Timothy the importance of building up others with our words rather than tearing them down
- Encouragement is more than a kind word; it is spurring one another on
- The Greek word for “encourage” means to urge someone toward right action
- True encouragement strengthens faith & motivates godly living

Speak Life Into Others

- The power of words can bring life or destruction
- Many churches & relationships are torn down not from the outside, but by critical & divisive words spoken within
- We are to outdo one another in showing honor
- Encouragement should be given generously, not withheld out of fear of "inflating someone's ego"
- Criticism should be outweighed by encouragement

Speak Life Into Others

- Constructive feedback has its place, but encouragement should be 10 times greater than criticism
- Encouragement must be spoken, not just felt
- If we feel gratitude or admiration for someone, we must express it
- The Holy Spirit prompts us to encourage others & ignoring that prompting is disobedience



Church is a Family

- Paul teaches that the church is a spiritual family where we treat one another with love, respect & purity
- Older men should be treated as fathers, younger men as brothers
- Respect for elders is a biblical principle (Leviticus 19:32)
- Older women should be treated as mothers, younger women as sisters in all purity

Church is a Family

- The church is a spiritual home where women should be honored & protected
- Every woman in the church is a "mother" in the faith
- Eve was called "the mother of all living" before she had children (Genesis 3:20)
- Our spiritual family is just as important as our biological family

Church is a Family

- The church should provide love & support like a true family
- Just as families correct each other, church members must speak truth in love
- Disagreements should be handled with respect, not division



CARING FOR THOSE IN NEED

BUILDING COMMUNITY IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Caring for Those in Need

- Paul gives clear instructions about helping widows & others who need assistance
- The church should care for those who are truly in need
- Not everyone who asks for help is in genuine need - The church must exercise wisdom
- Families are responsible for caring for their own before relying on the church

Caring for Those in Need

- Adult children & grandchildren should care for elderly parents
- God values the faithfulness of older women who serve Him
- Paul describes a faithful widow as one who prays & serves others
- The early church supported widows, orphans & the poor, but ensured that aid went to those who truly needed it

Practical Applications

- Speak words of encouragement daily to family, friends, & fellow residents
- Treat the church as a family, not just a place to attend
- Express gratitude to those who have influenced your faith
- Reach out to those who are lonely, especially those without family nearby
- Help others without expecting recognition, following Jesus' example

Practical Applications

- Avoid gossip & criticism; instead, build others up
- Pray for the church & its leaders, asking God to guide & protect them

Discussion Questions

- What does true encouragement look like in our daily lives?
- How can we better treat the church as a family rather than just a place to attend?
- How does respecting elders in the church strengthen the body of Christ?
- Why is it important to be intentional about honoring & encouraging others rather than criticizing?



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