

Caring for the Family > 1 Timothy 5:3-16

5:3-6 Paul writes that the normal way a widow should be cared for is by her family. He is not saying that a widow should live in frivolous luxury (and certainly not in sin), but instead that it is right for a family to care for their own.

5:7-8 Practically, this is the standard that Timothy should set for the church in Ephesus. The weight is on the family to care for their own – not just because it’s “the right thing to do,” but also because it presents a witness to the watching world.

5:9-10 Some widows, however, do not have family to care for them. What then? Paul recognizes that some faithful ladies are of such an age where they are unlikely to remarry, and they have already been serving the church faithfully. In that case, it would be appropriate to provide support for them.

5:11-16 At the same time, younger widows have an opportunity to remarry, and they should so that they give no opportunity either for sin, confusion, or for unfounded accusations against their character.

Context: Paul continues this chapter by addressing specific situations that come up within the family of God.

Aim: There is a right way to care for one another, and when it comes to those who are widows, Paul sees three ways in which God’s people can display that care faithfully.

Gospel: Christ gives value to His people no matter what their social or marital status is. We have worth because of Him.

Applications: How can we care in a way that serves our disciple-making mission? What’s your role in that?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
