

Friday

Honoring the Body of Christ

Today's Scripture 1 Timothy 5:1-16

The Lord's church should always respect its doctrine. Part of our doctrine involves demeanor, and in 1 Timothy 5, Paul gives instructions to the church regarding how we treat one another as a family, as the body of Christ. To begin, he reminds Timothy to teach the church that each member should operate with others in like mind as they would toward those in the most precious of relationships. He opens by comparing responsibilities and treatment toward the older as those toward father and mother, and to the younger as brothers and sisters (verses 1 & 2). Though it may not be as natural in our congregations to consider intergenerational responsibilities, it was never God's desire to be ignored, and leaves many opportunities of spiritual growth behind.

Moving further, Paul begins showing how the church seeks to take care of its own in the concern over widows. In verse 3, the church is instructed to be proactive in caring for their needs. In this section, the wisdom of God is shown in the specifics of how those needs are to be addressed by the church. In a series of examples in verses 4-16, Paul speaks to both the responsibility and reason for his instruction. He teaches responsibility in family (vs. 4), for the widows personal life (vs. 5-6), and for her age and opportunity. He gives reason for it in the next section. Verses 11-15 speak of certain spiritual dangers that can arise if some are left without any responsibility or expectation for care and a productive walk with Christ.

Our Lord loves His church. He desires for it to be both a source of care for its own as well as an attractive example to the world. We should honor this opportunity.

Today, I will...consider one way to honor the older members of my congregation.