

1 Timothy 5 - Care for the Poor and Needy

“A Father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families.” **Psa 68v5,6 NIV**

CHAPTER 5.

^x Rules to be observed in reproof. ³ Of widows. ¹⁷ Of elders. ²³ A precept for Timothy's health.

REBUKE not an elder, but **reintreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;**

2 The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

3 Honour widows ^{of} that are widows indeed.

4 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first ^{to shew} piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.

5 Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and ^{continueth} in supplications and prayers ^{night and day.}

6 But she that liveth ^{in pleasure} is dead while she liveth. **7** And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless.

8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for ^{those of his own} house, he hath ^{denied} the faith, and is worse than ^{an infidel.}

9 Let not a widow be ^{taken into the number under} threescore years old, ^{having been} the wife of one man,

10 ^{Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.}

11 But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun

Be Selfless, think of others: Isa 58v7-12. Live what we believe! Get out of our comfort zone, thinking outwardly. Look out for the single mums and the lonely in our ecclesias.

v5 NIV “The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help.” Such a widow is one that has no relatives to support her. An example of such a faithful widow was Anna: **Lk 2v37.**

v6-7 **Pleasure** means self-indulgence, as in **Jms 5v5**. **Dead:** If we live after the flesh we are as good as dead: **Rev 3v1; Rom 8v13.**

v8 **Key Verse:** This summarises Paul's argument. We have seen the link between natural families and the ecclesia: **1 Tim 3v4-5,12.** Care for our own families is the fundamental grounding for ecclesial work. The “house of God” by extension is the ecclesia: **3v15.**

v1-2 The Ecclesia is a family:

We should care for one another: **1 Jn 2v1,12-14; 1 Cor 12v25; Matt 12v48-50; 1 Cor 9v22.** We must not castigate older brethren. Younger brethren are to be treated as our own family. Elder sisters were no doubt “mothers” to Timothy: **Rom 16v13.** Deborah was a “mother in Israel”: **Judges 5v7.** Be pure to young women.

v3-16 Provide for widows:

It is a consistent principle that we are to care for those in need: **Lk 3v11.** Honour means to support, as the word does in **Acts 28v10.** See **Matt 15v4; Prov 23v22.** In the OT, widows were continually provided for: **Ex 22v22; Duet 14 v29; 27v19.** The **fatherless** and the **widows** are representative of those who are most needy. God actually defines Himself in terms of His relationship with them: **Duet 10v18; 24v17; Psa 68v4-6.** True religion is to visit the fatherless and the widow: **Jms 1v27.** See also **Acts 6v1; 9v39.**

v4 NIV: these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family”. Some of the Jews did not do this: **Matt 15v4,6.** Children see how we treat our parents.

Key Principle: Show me your faith! Live it! James 2v14-18.

v9-10 Here is a way of life which is not selfish, but outward focussed.

Take into the number: Literally means to “catalogue”, ie. a list. It is highly likely that this was a big ecclesia, so a list was necessary. There is an important principle here for us. It can be helpful to make a list of those in our ecclesias who we need to remember in our prayers and who need assistance, cp. **Acts 6v1.** **Wife of one man:** Faithfulness to her husband is the same principle as in **3v2,12.** As the bride of Christ, we need to be faithful to him: **Ezek 16v8; Prov 31v10-31; Rev 19v7-8; 21v2.** **Children:** Same principle as **3v15:** “child-bearing”. Motherhood is highly valued by God: **1 Sam 1v26-28; Prov 22v6.** Nurture of children in God's ways was required of elders in **3v4.** **Lodged Strangers:** To be hospitable. She doesn't just spend time with her own friends. She cares for the lonely: **Heb 13v1-2; 1 Pet 4v8-9.** **Washed saints' feet:** Follows in the footsteps of Jesus: **Jn 13v5,14.** Care for others as if they were Jesus: **Lk 7v38; Matt 25v35-40.**

Relieved the afflicted: Bear one another's burdens: **Gal 6v2.**

v11-13 Warning against idleness:

NIV **v11** “for when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry.” Must be referring to marriage outside the Truth, cp. **v14.** Marriage is to be only in the Lord: **1 Cor 7v39.** Marriage outside the Faith is often warned against: **Gen 24v3; 28v1; Deut 22v10; Deut 7v3,8; 1 Kgs 11v1-11; 2 Cor 6vv14-18.**

v13 **Idle:** If we are not busy, we can easily be tempted to get caught up in sin: **Eccl 10v18**, cp. **Prov 31v27.**

Tattlers: NIV “gossips”. This can be a very serious problem in ecclesias. The world thrives on gossip. Today, gossip spreads so much more easily due to the internet. This damaging gossip is condemned by God: **Prov 26v22; Matt 5v21-22; 1 Jn 3v15.**

v14 **Bear children:** Same principle as in **2v15.** That is the woman's forté.

Guide the house: This is her God-given role, to be a “keeper at home”: **Titus 2v4-5; Prov 31v15,27.**

Adversary: Opposition from people in the world, as in **3v7; Titus 2v8.**

The Roman government is described as a hostile adversary in **1 Pet 5v8.**

v15 **Satan:** The world, as in **1v20.**

v16 NIV “If any woman who is a believer has widows in her family, she should help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.”

to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry;

¹² Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith.

¹³ And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but ^{tattlers also and} busy-bodies, speaking things which they ought not.

¹⁴ I will therefore ^{that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary} to speak reproachfully.

¹⁵ For some are already turned aside after Satan.

¹⁶ If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve ^{them that are widows indeed.}

¹⁷ Let the elders ^{that rule well} be counted worthy of double ^{honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.}

¹⁸ For the scripture saith, ^{Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.}

¹⁹ Against an elder receive not an accusation, but ^{before two or three witnesses.}

²⁰ Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

Care for the Poor and Needy: This is what it means to be Godly. **Being like God!** To care for the poor and needy is to “know God”: **Jer 22v16.** In the days of Lot, Sodom refused to care for the poor and needy: **Ezek 16v49.** In the Kingdom, God saves them: **Psa 72v4,12,13.** See also **Deut 15v11; Psa 35v10; 82v3-4; 113v7; Isa 10v2; 41v17.** The **fatherless** and **widow** are the most vulnerable, with no-one to defend them: **Duet 24v19; Psa 146v9; Mal 3v5.** These are basic but fundamental principles. Think of those in the ecclesia who are in a similar situation to widows. Do we really care for and nurture these people as we should?

v17-25 Elders in the Ecclesia: These are the “bishops” (overseers) of **1 Tim 3v1-7**, also **1 Pet 5v1-3; Titus 1v5-9.**

v17 **Rule well:** NIV “direct the affairs”. **Double honour** means greater reverence and respect, but remember the essential character attributes in **3v1-7.** Paul emphasises again the importance of **the word and doctrine.** Teaching in the ecclesia is a serious responsibility that should not be treated lightly. **v18** A quote from **Duet 25v4.** The oxen were not muzzled when they trod down the grain, so that they could eat the fruit of their labours. See also **1 Cor 9v6-11.** It simply means we should support them with necessities.

v19 Elders are more likely to attract criticism. Accusations should be considered in light of **Matt 18v15-17.**

v20 Consistent with **3v1-7**, there is a high standard set for elders. If an elder persists in deliberate sin, they are to be rebuked by the ecclesia. It would be irresponsible to allow an elder to continue in unrepentant sin: **2 Thess 3v14.**

v21 **No partiality:** Do not be biased in judgment. See **Principles & Proverbs p.36.**

v22 Do not hastily give the responsibility of eldership: **4v14; 2 Tim 1v14; Tit 1v5.** Don't give someone such a responsibility if we know they are corrupt: **2 Jn v11.**

v23 **Wine:** For medicine. An elder must keep healthy if he is to give himself to the work of the Truth.

v24-25 At the end of all our struggles in ecclesial life, Christ is the judge who knows all things: **Jn 12v48; Heb 4v13.**

²¹ I charge thee ^{before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things} without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.

²² Lay hands ^{suddenly on no man, neither} be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

²³ Drink no longer water, but use ^{a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.}

²⁴ Some men's sins are open beforehand, ^{going before to judgment; and some men they follow after.}

²⁵ Likewise also the good works ^{of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid.}

Colour code: Blue (God & Jesus); Red (sin/devil/judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words & phrases); Purple (return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation). Prepared for Study Week 2010. These notes have been prepared mainly from the book “Godliness with Contentment” by George Booker and Troy Halton. For a PDF file, email acdangerfield@webshield.net.au or download from www.studyweek.net First principles Bible marking sheets are also available.