

# What Do You Think?

- *Cleanliness is next to godliness.*
- *God helps those who help themselves.*

*Paul's Letter to  
the Disciple*



# I Timothy

*Its All Relative*

## 1 Tim. 5:1-16



1. Timothy's Relationship with the Church
2. The Church's Relationship with Widows
3. The Family's Relationship with Widows
4. The Widows' Relationship with the Church

# 1. Timothy -> Church

- Timothy was to fix things (1:3-5)
  - *Instruct (command), prescribe, point out, teach, model, preach*
- Do not *sharply rebuke!* (5:1)
  - *From to strike, to beat with blows*
  - *Figuratively: to chastise harshly, to beat down with words*



# 1. Timothy -> Church

- Instead, *appeal* to them

- *To call to something, encourage, exhort, admonish, warn* (cf. 1 Thess. 2:11-12; Heb. 10:25)

- *I urge* (2:1); *preach* (6:2)

- “Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.” (Luke 6:31; cf. James 2:8)



# 1. Timothy -> Church

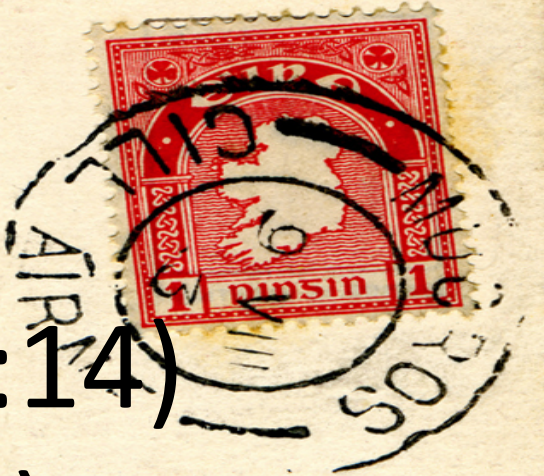
- Instead, appeal:

- To older men as fathers
- To younger men as brothers
- To older women as mothers
- To younger women as sisters
- *In all purity* – motives & actions (see 4:12)



## So What?

- We should *appeal to* one another (Rom. 15:14; Col. 3:16; 1 Thess. 5:14)
- Be careful *how* (cf. 2 Thess. 3:15)
- Be careful *who* (Prov. 9:7-9; 10:8, 17; 15:12)
- Be willing to receive it (Ps. 141:5; Prov. 9:8; 15:31-33)



## 2. Church -> Widows

- *Honor widows*
  - *To esteem -> value/price*
    - Includes material support (see 5:17-18; Matt. 15:1-6; cf. Acts 6:1-6)
    - **God cares for widows!** (Ex. 22:21-24; Deut. 14:29; Ps. 146:9; James 1:27)
- Can the church support *all* widows? (16)





# Family or Alone?

Family -- But  
*Will They Practice Piety?*

Yes: Acceptable in  
the sight of God!

No: Denied The Faith;  
Worse than Unbeliever

Alone -- But  
*God or Pleasure?*

God: Widow  
Indeed!

Pleasure: *Dead  
While She Lives*

## 2. Church -> Widows

- The church should support widows who are God-focused and have no familial support
- The church should not support widows who have family (4, 16) or who are just *freeloading* (6-7)



# Daughter accused in fatal beating of 85-year-old mom who left her out of will

**SunSentinel**

LINDA TRISCHITTA

### 3. Family -> Widows

- *Family takes care of family*
- Learn to *practice piety* at home
  - *Respect, honor, devotion*
  - Our attitude toward God
    - Results in living a holy Christian life (cf. 2 Pet. 1:3-11; 3:11)



### 3. Family -> Widows

- *Family takes care of family*
- Learn to *practice piety* at home
  - Honor parents | | honor God (Ex. 20:3,12)
  - “You shall rise up before the grayheaded and honor the aged, and you shall revere your God; I am the Lord.” (Lev. 19:32)
  - See also Ps. 100:3



### 3. Family -> Widows

- *Family takes care of family*
- Learn to *practice piety* at home
  - *Make some return*
    - Loving care for those who cared for you
    - Expressions of gratitude (cf. Rom. 1:21)
  - *Acceptable* – God *welcomes* this, it is *pleasing* to Him (see 2:3)



### 3. Family -> Widows

- Unwilling family has *denied the faith*
  - The Christian faith is all about love
  - To withhold material help from those in need is not loving (see James 2:8-17)
    - *Faith without works (of love) is dead*
  - Even unbelievers recognize the good in caring for their elders! (cf. Ruth 1:14-18)



# WIDOWS

YOUNGER  
(UP TO 40)

OLDER  
(40+)

*"THE LIST"*  
(60+)



## 4. Widows -> Church

- What is “the list”?
- Widows to be helped?
  - Would exclude young widowed mothers and new believers
  - *Who to help* has already been discussed
  - *Pay-for-play?*



## 4. Widows -> Church

- What is “the list”?

- The qualifications resemble the lists for overseers and deacons (3:1-13)

- Includes a *pledge to Christ* (5:11-12)

- *Wanting to marry -> condemnation?*

- Contradiction? (14)



## 4. Widows -> Church

- “the list” -> ministry to church
- Qualifications -> *already doing it*
  - Godly examples; able to instruct and counsel others (see 3:4-5; Titus 2:3-5)
- The *pledge* – commitment to ministry (12)
  - *Condemnation* – breaking the pledge to ministry



## 4. Widows -> Church

- What if you are not on “the list”?



- A. Work toward the qualifications

- Keep from idleness, gossip, and meddling in other people’s business (13)

- *Following Satan?* (15)

- Godly women are to adorn themselves with good works (2:9-10)

## 4. Widows -> Church

- What if you are not on “the list”?



### B. Get remarried (14)

- If you can't handle staying single (11; 1 Cor. 7:7-9)
- *Bear children* (see 2:15; 5:10)
  - God-designed order of the family
  - Part of our sanctification

## So What?

- God wants *us* to help those who can't help themselves (James 2:8-17)
  - ...and who can't repay us (Luke 14:12-14)
- Yet, within His guidelines:
  - Family first
  - Godliness, not laziness or selfishness (cf. 2 Thess. 3:6-15)



# So What?

- Parents: teach *piety* (4)
  - Commitment to holy living
  - What is acceptable in the sight of God (4)
  - What is in line with the faith (8)
- All: appeal to one another as family
  - See above

