

1 Timothy #17

August 17, 2025

Series: Body Essentials: Imperatives for Church and Leaders

Today's Message: Provide Appropriate Care for One Another, pt 2; 1 Timothy 5:1-6:2

The body of believers is a spiritual family and is unique to any family on the face of the earth. So, here in 1 Timothy 5:1-6:2 we learn that it is essential that the church and leaders commit themselves to caring for one another in the appropriate way.

Our text clarifies what it means to care for one another in the appropriate way. Here in 1 Timothy 5:1-6:2 we see that to appropriately care for members of the body of Christ often requires gentle confrontations (5:1-2), reasonable expectations (5:3-8), difficult exclusions (5:9-16), wise evaluations (5:17-25), and challenging inclusions (6:1-2).

We talked about two of the four groups mentioned in 1 Timothy 5:1-6:2: **Everyone** of all ages (5:1-2) and **widows** (5:3-16). Today let's talk about the appropriate care required for the ruling elders (5:17-25) and slaves and their work ethic and relationship with their masters (6:1-2). And by the way, how we care for the elders has a direct impact on the Church. An orderly eldership consisting of faithful and qualified men will directly impact the Church.

- I) **(5:1-2) Everyone. Pastoral care of every age group for their spiritual development and maturity.**
 - A) Paul commands Timothy to be willing to "confront" (bring to light) areas of weakness in the members of the body of all ages.
 - B) Paul implies that Timothy must know his flock if he is going to do this effectively and appropriately.
 - 1) Obviously, he must know their strengths
 - 2) And he must be familiar with the areas of spiritual struggle.
 - C) The impact on the Church: To strengthen the body, conforming it to Christ (Rom. 8:29)
 - 1) When there are confrontations (teaching moments), they must be gentle with the goal of strengthening and turning that believer to the *right way* (the more excellent way).
- II) **(5:3-16) Widows and Women. Ministry to Widows requires both expectations and exclusions.**
 - A) (5:3-8) The appropriate care of widows requires reasonable expectations.
 - 1) Expectations and Exclusions:
 - (a) (5:5) A true widow (v5a) should be cared for b/c she is *left alone* with no one she qualifies.
 - (i) (5:9-10) She is over 60; and has a record of godly character and conduct.
 - (b) (5:6) A woman who is **not** to be considered for care is one who has family to care for her.
 - (i) Under 60, and likely to remarry.
 - (a) (v16) Paul counsels these women **to serve the church** in service to older women.
- III) **(5:17-25) Elders. Paul teaches Timothy how to care for elders, himself, and other men in the church.**
 - A) (5:17-20) Paul describes the wise evaluations when it comes to the treatment of elders in the church.
 - 1) (vv17-18) How to treat elders who rule well:
 - (a) (v17) Those who rule the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those who "labor" to preach and teach.
 - (i) He is identifying elders who not only do the work but do it well.
 - (a) It is labor. Preaching and teaching, if done well is painful work. John Trapp writes, "Preaching is painful work and enfeebles a man exceedingly, whence the prophet cries out, 'My leanness, my leanness. (Is. 24:16)'"
 1. The same John Trapp observed that Jesus was in His early 30's when He ministered. Yet in John 8:57 the people said, "you're not even 50 years old." The daily grind of His ministry took a toll on His body. The ministry is hard "labor".
 - (b) 2 Timothy 2:10: "You, however, know about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance...the persecutions I endured."
 - (ii) He is encouraging Timothy to teach the church to esteem a faithful pastor and not treat him otherwise. So the Church body can help their pastor elder. What can you do to help?
 - (a) The work is hard, so be careful to be engaged and responsive. ("Honk him on!")

1. With a hearty “amen” you’ll spur the teaching elder to work even harder!
 2. One word of encouragement covers a thousand moments of discouragement!
- (b) (v18) To financially compensate the faithful teaching elder:
- (i) The “worker is worth his wages (Luke 10:7” and “do not muzzle an ox... (Dt.25:4)” (Pay him.)
 - (a) Don’t begrudge paying the hard-working pastor elder.
- 2) (vv19-20) Continuing the thought of caring for your elders: How to handle an elder who does not rule well:
- (a) First, don’t pounce on an isolated complaint. There must be at least two or more witnesses.
 - (i) If every accusation was sufficient to make a pastor guilty, no good pastor would remain!
 - (a) Luther said, “Truth hath always a scratched face.”
 1. That is to say, people get feisty when the Truth reproves them and exposes sin.
 2. It is tempting to fire a shot at the faithful pastor elder rather than apply the hard word to yourself—receiving it as it is, a word from the Lord intended to help you grow.
 - (b) If he has sinned, rebuke him before the whole church.
 - (i) An accusation must not be entertained unless there are two or three that can attest to the sin or error.
 - (ii) So that he might repent.
 - (a) The more public the sin or error the more public must be the rebuke.
 1. Paul rebuked Peter in Galatians 2:14 for his scandalizing the gospel of grace!
 - (b) If it is private and not publicly known, then Matthew 18:15-16 must be practiced, beginning privately. And if need be, expand the inquiry.
 - (iii) And, that the whole church body will take warning that no one is immune from discipline.
- 3) (vv21-22, 24-25) Paul provides general counsel that insists on wise evaluations.
- (a) Be wise in your evaluations by not being partial to certain people and by not showing favoritism.
 - (i) Be careful not to be swayed by a person’s position or status.
 - (a) It is a temptation give certain people a “pass” into leadership without first testing them.
 - (b) (v22) Be wise in your evaluations of candidates for the office gifts. Don’t be too hasty to approve.
 - (i) Take time to observe and test a man’s conduct in home, church and the world.
 - (ii) To be hasty comes with a warning! The people responsible for hastily putting a man in an office of leadership will share in his sins, if it is discovered that his life is full of inconsistencies.
 - (a) Paul warns Timothy that he must be wise in these matters to keep himself pure!
 1. Sin and inconsistency in a man will have a negative effect on the church.
 - a. APPL: We provide the best care for the church when we are careful not to appoint an elder hastily.
 - (c) (vv24-25) Be wise in your evaluations and know a person well before making him an elder.
 - (i) (5:22) Don’t be hasty in laying on of hands.
 - (a) Don’t judge by mere outward appearances.
 1. We bring ourselves into judgement if we don’t carefully evaluate a man.
 - (b) Some problems are easy to discern; some problems take time.
 1. If there is something that disqualifies a man it will be discovered over time.
- 4) (v23) Paul gives Timothy some wise counsel in his evaluation of Timothy’s health issues.
- (a) Timothy must care for himself (his own health) if he is to best care for the church.
- IV) (6:1-2) Slaves and their relationship with their masters. Paul deals with the issue of slaves and masters.
- A) (6:1-2) He doesn’t deny the difficult relational challenge facing believing slaves toward their masters.
- 1) They must highly respect their masters even if that master is not a believer.
 - (a) Regardless of the *master’s* faith respect and submission must be the rule.
 - (i) **Titus 2:9-10:** subject to their master in everything so the message of Christ will be attractive.
 - 2) If their master is a believer, the believing slave is challenged to include them as a brother and serve.
 - (a) But not to take advantage of the believing master.
 - (i) APPL: This can be applied to your life! Where you are under the direction of another, do this.