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Pastor John W. Brown

Calvary Chapel Central Phoenix

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1 TIMOTHY

Chapter 05

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR CHURCH LIFE – PART 1

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. In our last study - of **1 Timothy chapter 4**, Paul reminded Timothy of the great apostasy (falling away) and the lying spirits (false teachers) that will invade the church.
1. He told Timothy to avoid “wives’ tales” and stick to the truth of God’s word.
 - a) . . . to be an example himself.
 - b) . . . to use the gifts that were given to him.
 - c) . . . and to continue in the things of the Lord! The things he knew to be right and true!
- B. Now Paul turns to the practical “do’s and don’ts of church life.

II. **1TIM 5:1-2 (NKJV) DO NOT REBUKE AN OLDER MAN, BUT EXHORT [HIM] AS A FATHER, YOUNGER MEN AS BROTHERS, 2 OLDER WOMEN AS MOTHERS, YOUNGER WOMEN AS SISTERS, WITH ALL PURITY.**

- A. There are really four classifications in this verse:
1. Older and younger men.
 2. Older and younger women.
 - a) And each is to be treated a little differently.
- B. The older men in the fellowship are to be treated with the respect and dignity of a father.
1. They are not to be openly, verbally chastised by younger men and women.
 2. If there is a complaint, **Matthew 18** should be followed. (Approached privately – then with a witness, etc.)
- C. The younger men are to be treated as brothers, with the utmost of love and protection.
- D. The older women in the church are to be treated as you would your mother.
1. ...Also with respect and honor.
- E. And the younger women are to be treated as sisters, **with all “purity” = SINLESSNESS!**
1. For the young dating people, you don’t stick your tongue in your sister’s mouth!
 2. You are very careful not to touch her inappropriately!
 3. And you don’t speak to her seductively.

- a) So, whether we think we are in love or not, until marriage - the opposite sex is to be treated as a brother or a sister.
- 4. Now we move on to another group in the church – the widows.

III. 1TIM 5: 3-4 (NKJV) HONOR WIDOWS WHO ARE WIDOWS INDEED; 4 BUT IF ANY WIDOW HAS CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN, LET THEM FIRST LEARN TO SHOW PIETY (A : FIDELITY TO NATURAL OBLIGATIONS (AS TO PARENTS)) AT HOME AND TO REPAY THEIR PARENTS; FOR THIS IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE BEFORE GOD.

- A. The widow with children or grandchildren is to be supported by those in her family.
 - 1. It is good and acceptable to the Lord that these children and grandchildren “repay” the kindness and care that this mother/grandmother has given them.
 - 2. Paul goes on to give a little definition to what qualifies as a real widow.

IV. 1TIM 5:5-8 (NKJV) NOW SHE WHO IS REALLY A WIDOW, AND LEFT ALONE, TRUSTS IN GOD AND CONTINUES IN SUPPLICATIONS AND PRAYERS NIGHT AND DAY. 6 BUT SHE WHO LIVES IN PLEASURE IS DEAD WHILE SHE LIVES. 7 AND THESE THINGS COMMAND, THAT THEY MAY BE BLAMELESS. 8 BUT IF ANYONE DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR HIS OWN, AND ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE OF HIS HOUSEHOLD, HE HAS DENIED THE FAITH AND IS WORSE THAN AN UNBELIEVER.

- A. In other words, a godly widow will spend her time in prayer for the saints.
 - 1. But evidently there were some that felt that this new freedom was there to satisfy themselves with worldly pleasures.
 - 2. Paul wanted Timothy to know that there was a difference in how these two situations were to be handled by the church.
 - 3. In fact, the one **who lives in pleasure** was not to be the financial concern of the church at all.
 - a) Both were to be taken care of by their families first - but the church had no obligation to one living in the flesh.
 - b) Paul goes on to say that if the family will not “provide” for them, they shouldn’t even call themselves Christians. WOW!
 - (1) The word “provide” is actually made up of 2 words that mean = “to think of their provision before they need it!”

V. 1TIM 5:9-10 (NKJV) DO NOT LET A WIDOW UNDER SIXTY YEARS OLD BE TAKEN INTO THE NUMBER, [AND] [NOT] [UNLESS] SHE HAS BEEN THE WIFE OF ONE MAN, 10 WELL REPORTED FOR GOOD WORKS: IF SHE HAS BROUGHT UP CHILDREN, IF SHE HAS LODGED STRANGERS, IF SHE HAS WASHED THE SAINTS' FEET, IF SHE HAS RELIEVED THE AFFLICTED, IF SHE HAS DILIGENTLY FOLLOWED EVERY GOOD WORK.

- A. The Apostle Paul tells Timothy that for a widow to be supported in any way by the church, the widow had to be:
 - 1. Over 60 years old.
 - 2. ...The wife of one man (same requirement for elder/deacon) – “A one-man woman”.

3. She must have raised children.
4. Have a reputation for good works in her service to the Lord.
 - a) Hospitality, served the saints, helped the sick and afflicted, and in general was an active dedicated Christian!

VI. **1TIM 5:11 (NKJV) BUT REFUSE [THE] YOUNGER WIDOWS; FOR WHEN THEY HAVE BEGUN TO GROW WANTON AGAINST CHRIST, THEY DESIRE TO MARRY, 12 HAVING CONDEMNATION BECAUSE THEY HAVE CAST OFF THEIR FIRST FAITH. 13 AND BESIDES THEY LEARN [TO] [BE] IDLE, WANDERING ABOUT FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE, AND NOT ONLY IDLE BUT ALSO GOSSIPS AND BUSYBODIES, SAYING THINGS WHICH THEY OUGHT NOT. 14 THEREFORE I DESIRE THAT [THE] YOUNGER [WIDOWS] MARRY, BEAR CHILDREN, MANAGE THE HOUSE, GIVE NO OPPORTUNITY TO THE ADVERSARY TO SPEAK REPROACHFULLY. 15 FOR SOME HAVE ALREADY TURNED ASIDE AFTER SATAN.**

A. The word "**wonton**" means = "to feel sexual desire".

1. In other words, it is much more likely that a younger widow will become lonely and desire to remarry, whereas the older widows found it much easier to dedicate themselves to a life of celibacy and prayer.
2. There was yet another problem with some of the young widows:
 - a) Some were doing nothing productive (idle).
 - (1) They were filling up their days with idle gossip. Instead of being **productive** they were being **destructive!**
 - b) Some folks simply have too much time on their hands - today we have to be careful with phones and e-mail, chat rooms, Facebook, Instagram and the list goes on.
 - (1) Paul's solution:

B. Get re-married and have children. That will keep a person busy!

1. We are not to give an "opportunity" to satan.
 - a) And idle gossip and chitchat gives him plenty of opportunity.
2. Then Paul closes this section regarding widows with **verse 16**.

VII. **1TIM 5:16 (NKJV) IF ANY BELIEVING MAN OR WOMAN HAS WIDOWS, LET THEM RELIEVE THEM, AND DO NOT LET THE CHURCH BE BURDENED, THAT IT MAY RELIEVE THOSE WHO ARE REALLY WIDOWS.**

A. In other words, "Let the church's limited resources be used to take care of the ones who are really godly widows with no one to help them."

1. The next section deals with the church's treatment of its Elders.

VIII. **1TIM 5:17 (NKJV) LET THE ELDERS WHO RULE WELL BE COUNTED WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO LABOR IN THE WORD AND DOCTRINE. 18 FOR THE SCRIPTURE SAYS, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE AN OX WHILE IT TREADS OUT THE GRAIN," AND, "THE LABORER [IS] WORTHY OF HIS WAGES."**

- A. As you can see from the Apostle Paul's statement - there are good elders and there are bad elders.
1. The ones **who rule well** are to receive "double honor", especially the ones who are responsible for teaching God's word.
 - a) Paul cites these 2 phrases out of Leviticus and Deuteronomy to remind Christians that they should financially take care of those who are spiritually taking care of them!
 - b) The storehouse of the Lord's should be full all of the time because of the gracious giving of the saints! And there are so many needs of so many hurting people.

IX. 1TIM 5:19 (NKJV) DO NOT RECEIVE AN ACCUSATION AGAINST AN ELDER EXCEPT FROM TWO OR THREE WITNESSES.

- A. As a church we are not to accept an accusation, especially against our leadership.
1. That doesn't mean they are exempt. It just means that it must be by 2, or 3 witnesses.
 - a) Even then – it may not mean they did anything wrong (remember the crowd yelled out to set Barabbas free and cried "crucify" when it came to Jesus!)
 2. The next verses assume that **Matt 18** had been followed and the person had been talked to privately, then with the 2 or 3 witnesses, then finally brought before the church publicly.

X. 1TIM 5:20 (NKJV) THOSE WHO ARE SINNING REBUKE IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL, THAT THE REST ALSO MAY FEAR. 21 I CHARGE [YOU] BEFORE GOD AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND THE ELECT ANGELS THAT YOU OBSERVE THESE THINGS WITHOUT PREJUDICE, DOING NOTHING WITH PARTIALITY.

- A. We are not to let our love for the individual interfere with correcting them.
1. Correction is not a lack of love but an **act of love** for the person; in hopes they will see the error of their ways and repent.
 2. And because this is such a traumatic event - Timothy is cautioned to think about his elder selection long and hard before he selects.

XI. 1TIM 5:22 (NKJV) DO NOT LAY HANDS ON ANYONE HASTILY, NOR SHARE IN OTHER PEOPLE'S SINS; KEEP YOURSELF PURE.

- A. The laying on of hands is symbolic of passing authority to another individual.
1. When that is done, people in the church assume that is a person they can trust and count on.
 2. That person can do a lot of good or a lot of damage to the flock
 - a) That is not something to be taken lightly.

XII. CONCLUSION

- A. **1Tim 5:23 (NKJV) No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities. 24 Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding [them] to judgment, but those of some [men] follow later. 25 Likewise, the good works [of] [some] are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden.**
1. Please look at the reason for Paul's recommendation of a little wine for Timothy.
 - a) ...For your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.
 - b) The reasons (at least here in the text) were medicinal.
 2. The meaning of the last 2 verses is this:
 - a) Some sins can be hidden until judgment, but good works and bad works are evident to all.