

A Study of the Epistles of Paul

(NT Survey Lesson 181--1 Timothy 5)

Introduction: As a young man, Timothy needed wise counsel about how to deal with various age groups in the church. In this chapter Paul advises Timothy about how to deal with people of all ages but especially widows and the elders.

Lesson aim: To understand the proper response to the aged, the widow, and the elders.

How to deal with people of all ages--1 Tim. 5:1-2

1. How did Paul tell Timothy to deal with an older man in the church?
How should we appeal to them? The older women? The younger men?
The younger women?

Care for widows--1 Tim. 5:3-16

1. What does it mean to "honor" widows?
2. Who is a "widow indeed"? How does such a widow live?
3. What did Paul teach children and grandchildren to do for their mother or grandmother? What did Paul say about those who would not care for their own house?
4. What characteristics of a widow entitled her to be put a list for support?
(v. 9-10)
5. Why should younger widows not be put on such a list? What did Paul urge them to do instead?
6. Are there some widows who are not to be in the care of the church?

Responsibilities toward elders--1 Tim. 5:17-25

1. What did Paul urge the church to do for those elders who rule well? At what particularly would such elders work?
2. On the basis of what principle did Paul urge the church to do this?
3. How was Timothy urged to respect the reputation of the elders (v. 19)?
4. Was Timothy urged to overlook the sin of elders? How was he to deal with this problem?
5. Of what danger did Paul warn Timothy in the application of these principles?
6. What does it mean to "laid hands on someone hastily"? By avoid this, Timothy would keep himself free from what?
7. Is it possible that Timothy's work as an evangelist could be discredited by appointing unqualified men? What principles did Paul give that would help him avoid this problem? (v. 24-25)
8. Parenthetically, Paul urges Timothy to no longer do what? Would this possibly suggest that Timothy had sought to avoid wine altogether?
9. What did Paul recommend for Timothy's health problems? Would Paul have endorsed modern social drinking? The modern use of fortified wines?