

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO EACH OTHER **(1 Timothy 5-6:1-2)**

- I. Precautions will be taken as to how we treat people (vs. 1-2).**
 - A. In these verses, each age group is discussed and how Timothy was to treat them.
 - B. The word “elder” here indicates age and not position.
 - 1. He is not talking about those who serve as elders.
 - 2. He is talking about older men.
 - 3. Because of age, respect is to be shown to those who are older.
 - 4. We are not to beat these men down or use harsh words toward them out of respect.
 - C. The younger men are to be treated like we would treat our physical brother, with love and compassion.
 - D. The older women like we would our own mother.
 - E. The younger women are to be treated in a pure manner, just as we would our own physical sister.
 - F. We should notice the family atmosphere Paul said should prevail.
- II. Provisions will be made (vs. 3-8).**
 - A. Widows are at a great disadvantage in our society in some ways.
 - 1. People try to take advantage of them.
 - 2. They are preyed up on by many in our society.
 - B. Paul says that widows indeed are to be revered, which is what honor means.
 - 1. A widow indeed is one who has no family to take care of her as seen in verse 5.
 - a. This lady is reliant upon God for everything.
 - b. This is shown in her continual trusting in and praying to Him for her needs.
 - 2. This is also brought to light in verse 4, where we are told that those widows with children or grandchildren should be taken care of by them and not the church if possible.
 - 3. They are to requite, or pay back, this lady for all that she did for them when they were children.
 - 4. When they fail to do this, if they claim to be Christians, they are shown to be worse than one who refuses to believe in God and His precepts.
 - C. The word “denied” is interesting in that it means to reject something in the face of former relationship or better knowledge.
 - 1. This person has had a relationship with the faith.
 - 2. Instead of maintaining that relationship by caring for the widow in his family, he rejects the relationship.
 - 3. For a Christian to not take care of a widow in his immediate family is a rejection of the gospel.
 - D. A widow who is not spiritually minded but living immorally or in a profligate way is lost in sin and dead spiritually while she is still alive.

1. The funds of a family member should not go to her.
2. She is living in a way that is neglectful and sinful and should not be supported in such a lifestyle.

E. We have to make provisions for those in our life who need care.

III. **Prohibitions will be observed (vs. 9-15).**

A. Paul talks about two types of widows in this section.

1. One type is made up of those women who are past child bearing age and have shown themselves to be spiritual and in need.
2. The second type is made up of younger women who are still able to bear children and desire to do so and have shown themselves to not be as spiritually mature as the first type.

B. Paul says widows of the first type are to be taken into the number, which simply means the group who receives support from the church out of the treasury..

1. She is to have shown herself to be spiritually minded and have taken care of saints and others who needed aid.
2. There is much discussion about the phrase having been the wife of one man.
 - a. It could mean having had only one husband.
 - b. It is similar to 1 Timothy 3:2 causing some to say it has to be a former elder's wife, which I doubt.
 - c. I would see no problem with helping a widow who had two husbands during her life, because she may still be in need.
3. This is a lady who has given her life to the work of the church and is not going to leave that work for a man.

C. The widows of the second type are to find a husband if possible.

1. I don't believe Paul is saying they should not be helped at all, just not totally given to the work because she would leave it for a man.
2. These women would fall more easily to the temptations of indulgence, indifference and idleness than older women.
3. Rather, they need to take care of the home which keeps them busy and protect the reputation of the church.

IV. **Priorities will be in place (vs. 16).**

A. A child of God that has a widow in the immediate family is going to take care of her if his priorities are right.

B. Paul mentions the children's obligation which is first.

C. He then mentions the church's responsibility.

1. If there is no family or the family fails to help the church should.
2. James mentioned this a part of a pure religion.

V. **Precepts will be followed (vs. 17-18).**

A. There are those in the church that are worthy of receiving financial compensation for their efforts.

B. One such group is that of elders who have given themselves to the work of the congregation and left their secular work behind.

1. We should recognize them for this.
2. We should respect them for the work they do.

3. We should reward them for that work.

VI. Purity will be desired (vs. 19-25).

- A. Sin is always around and Paul knew that.
- B. We can't allow ourselves to be tainted by the sins of others.
- C. He gives some guidelines for maintaining purity.
 - 1. Be cautious when receiving accusations of sin made against elders (here it does mean the office).
 - 2. Be bold in pointing out sin that is present.
 - 3. Be consistent when dealing with those who sin.
 - 4. Don't allow yourself to get caught up in the sins of others.
 - 5. Be convinced of the consequences of sin.
- D. I long wondered why Paul here mentions to Timothy about the use of wine for medicinal purposes.
 - 1. I firmly believe that Timothy abstained from all use of alcohol because of its sinfulness.
 - 2. Paul knew he did and ordered him to take wine for this purpose and mentions it in this section because of the thought Timothy may have had about being an example to others.
 - 3. He was not joining in the sins of others but taking care of himself.

VII. Problems will be resolved (6:1-2).

- A. Paul talks now about the master/slave relationship.
- B. Christian slaves were to continue to work and honor their masters and serve with the right motive.
 - 1. The motive is to be consistent with the gospel message.
 - 2. This would commend the gospel to the master.
- C. Christian masters were not to be treated differently or hated or taken advantage of but served faithfully.
 - 1. This should have enhanced the relationship between the two.
 - 2. They would love each other as Christians.

From Winfred Clark in "Expositions Of The Expositor"