

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO TIMOTHY

I TIMOTHY 5:1-6:2

WEEK OF APRIL 13 – April 18

INSTRUCTION FOR CONDUCT IN THE CHURCH

Paul continues in his letter to Timothy with additional practical instructions for order and conduct of the relationships of the believers and the affairs of the church. Recall the theme of this letter to Timothy from **1 Timothy 3:15** where Paul instructed Timothy, *“I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct themselves in the household of God.”* Having already addressed several issues needing attention in the church at Ephesus, Paul provides additional practical instruction and wise counsel for a young pastor which undoubtedly was much appreciated by Timothy. In this passage, Paul addresses confrontation of sin (**5:1-2**), care of widows (**5:3-16**), honoring, protecting, rebuking and selecting elders (**5:17-25**) and conduct of Christian employees (**6:1-2**).

Read 1 Timothy 5:1-2 Confronting Sin

Within the body of Christ, Christians out of love for one another, must deal with disobedience and sin in the lives of one another. In this passage, Paul provides practical instruction for communicating correction.

1. From **these verses**, what special instruction for correction is given for each group described?
2. What additional principles for correction are provided in **Galatians 6:1** and **2 Tim. 2:24-25**?

Read 1 Timothy 5:3-16 Care of Widows

3. In **verses 3 and 5** Paul refers to *“widows indeed”*. In English, widow refers to a woman whose husband is dead. The Greek term is broader meaning bereft, suffered loss or left alone. A widow indeed is one *“completely alone and without necessary resources for daily life.”* [*MacArthur 1 Timothy Commentary*](#), p. 197. From **verse 3**, what does Paul instruct concerning widows? What does it mean to honor?
4. From verses **4, 8 and 16**, who has the primary responsibility for the financial care of a widow?
5. What is the criteria Paul provides in **verse 5** for a “widow indeed” that is supported by the church?
6. How is the widow in **verse 6** described? Would the church be obligated to support her?
7. What are the qualifications in **verses 9-10** of a widow to be “put on the list” (NASB and LSB)?

Bible scholars offer two common options for the meaning of “*the list*” in **verse 9**. One is a list of widows meeting the qualifications in **verses 9-10** to serve in ministry and receive compensation for service. The majority of commentators view the list as a list of widows who meet the qualifications and are therefore to be cared for by the church.

8. In **verses 11-15**, how does Paul instruct the church regarding the younger widows?
What is the warning for her?

9. In **verse 16**, in addition to family who else is to care for the widows?

Read 1 Timothy 5:17-25 Honoring, Protecting, Rebuking and Selecting Elders

10. What does Paul instruct about honoring elders in **verses 17-18**?

11. How is the church to respond to an allegation against an elder in **verse 19**?

12. From **verse 20-21**, how does the church deal with an elder that “continues in sin”?

13. What important principles does Paul give in **verses 22-25** for the selection of elders?

“Verse 23 is a personal note, a parenthetical aside to Timothy in which Paul clarifies his exhortation to purity in verse 22. By calling for Timothy to remain pure, Paul was not advocating rigid asceticism. He did not want Timothy to injure his health, and so encouraged him to no longer drink water exclusively, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments. Timothy had obviously committed himself the total abstinence from wine.” [MacArthur 1 Timothy Commentary](#), p. 225

Read 1 Timothy 6:1-2 Conduct of Servants (Employees)

14. How should the Christian employee regard and serve his or her employer? Why is that important for the church?

15. As you consider all of this practical instruction regarding the church, what truths most challenged you personally?