

BUILDING GODLY RELATIONSHIPS 1 Timothy 5:1-16

3. How important did Paul consider the responsibility of families to care for family? (1 Timothy 5:8). The situation was obviously different in that there was no other social safety net. Even so Paul uses very strong words. What does he say? Discuss together why that is true.
4. Look back through the passage. What is the qualification of the widow "really in need"?
5. In a practical way, how might we meaningfully care for those who are young and recently widowed or abandoned? For those who are older? For those who have financial resources but not emotional or familial resources?

"Goodness is about character – integrity, honesty, kindness, generosity, moral courage and the like. More than anything else, it's about how we treat people."

Dennis Prager

Relating well to all (1 Timothy 5:1-2)

When conflict arises our commitment to godly relationship fades.

We tend to focus on the failure of others and ignore our own behavior.

Relating well to widows in need (those who are suffering) (5:3-16)

The first response is not always the best response.

In meeting needs, the church must exercise a prioritized response.

First line of responsibility goes to family
(notes for modern-day living)

Some common-sense guidelines for the sandwich generation

- Gather all the financial, health and other information you can
- Maintain sharing of responsibilities and decision where possible
- Seek out pros and resources for help
- Find the best care
- Take care of yourself – build a team
- Love those you love

Questions for churches to ask

1. Are they truly in need?
2. Will helping hurt?
3. Do they put their trust in God?

Building godly relationships involves a new perspective on

- Relations – you're not just in it for you.
- How you treat people – you don't just respond; you think!
- On meeting needs – you don't just meet superficial needs; you meet deep needs

Getting our minds back into the passage, in 1 Timothy 5:1-2 Paul talks about four relationships that should be handled differently by Timothy. Can you think of a time or relationship in which you were especially successful in carrying out one of Paul's challenges? Which of the four was it and what were the circumstances?

Going Deeper:

1. Read James 1:27. What does James define as pure and faultless religion? Of everything he could choose, why do you think he chooses these two things?
2. There are four types of widows in 1 Timothy 5. What are those categories:
5:1
5:3-5, 9-10
5:4, 16
5:11-15