

# “The Family Meeting”

1 Timothy 5:1-16

1/9/21

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## WELCOME:

(1 minute)

## INTRO:

(2 minutes)

- **Illustration:** A Family Meeting
  - **Q:** Have you ever known you needed to get everyone in your family together to discuss a pressing situation?
    - **A:** FMs were seldom in my house, **BUT** of great significance when they took place
  - This passage is Paul calling a family meeting for the church at Ephesus
    - **v.1-2** are directed at Timothy & apply to church
    - **BUT**→ **v.3-16** are directed at the church

## RECAP & CONTEXT:

(2 minutes)

- **Where we started:** Timothy to lead Church of Ephesus
  - Called to **PROCLAIM** the Gospel
  - Called to **GUARD** the Gospel
  - Called to **CELEBRATE** the Gospel
  - Called to **FIGHT** for the Gospel
- **Where we are going** (purpose for letter): Book Overview
  - Addressing different groups w/in the church

- Reminder to live on guard b/c of false doctrine
- A final exhortation to “fight the good fight”
- **\*\*Reminder the Church is called to represent Jesus\*\***
- **Where we are now:** Current Situation
  - Paul exhorts & cautions Timothy on leadership
  - Paul gives instruction to church about widows
  - Paul provides qualifications & explanations
- **Sermon Title:** “The Family Meeting”

**BIG IDEA:**

(1 minute)

- **Big Idea:** Christians are called to action & Christ-like conduct
  - Reveals how to engage & correct *all* Believers (v.1-2)
  - Points to a marginalized group who are to be cared for (v.3-8)
  - Provides explanations & qualifications for instruction of care (v.9-16)

**PRAY:**

(1 minute)

**READ:**

(1 minute)

- **Text:** 1 Timothy 5:1-16

*5 Don't rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, <sup>2</sup> older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters with all purity.*

## ***The Support of Widows***

*<sup>3</sup> Support widows who are genuinely in need. <sup>4</sup> But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them learn to practice godliness toward their own family first and to repay their parents, for this pleases God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is truly in need and left all alone has put her hope in God and continues night and day in her petitions and prayers; <sup>6</sup> however, she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Command this also, so that they will be above reproach. <sup>8</sup> But if anyone does not provide for his own family, especially for his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

*<sup>9</sup> No widow is to be enrolled on the list for support unless she is at least sixty years old, has been the wife of one husband, <sup>10</sup> and is well known for good works—that is, if she has brought up children, shown hospitality, washed the saints' feet, helped the afflicted, and devoted herself to every good work. <sup>11</sup> But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when they are drawn away from Christ by desire, they want to marry <sup>12</sup> and will therefore receive condemnation because they have renounced their original pledge. <sup>13</sup> At the same time, they also learn to be idle, going from house to house; they are not only idle, but are also gossips and busybodies, saying things they shouldn't say. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, I want younger women to marry, have children, manage their households, and give the adversary no opportunity to accuse us. <sup>15</sup> For some have already turned away to follow Satan. <sup>16</sup> If any believing woman has widows in her family, let her help them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it can help widows in genuine need.*

### **PREVIEW:**

(1 minute)

- **Main Points:**

- 1 – **Laying the Ground Rules** (v.1-2)
- 2 – **Acknowledging Needs** (v.3-8)
- 3 – **Explanation of Qualifications** (v.9-16)

## PILLAR 1: Laying the Ground Rules (v.1-2)

(10 minutes)

*<sup>1</sup>Don't rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, <sup>2</sup> older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters with all purity.*

(v.1-2)

- Addressing 4 groups of people w/in the church
  - (1) Older Men
    - Men (+/-) 60 y/o
  - (2) Younger Men
    - Men under 30-35 y/o
  - (3) Older Women
    - (Similar to older men)
  - (4) Younger Women
    - (Similar to younger men)
- WHY these 4 groups of people are mentioned
  - **\*\*Leadership requires specificity & intentionality**
  - Timothy must understand his audience (church)
  - Timothy should address each group w/ care
- HOW to treat & view the groups mentioned:
  - Older Men = “as a father”
  - Younger men = “as brothers”
  - Older women = “as mothers”
  - Younger women = “as sisters **WITH ALL PURITY**”
- Each group represents a piece of the family dynamic
  - Family members deserve love, care, & pure motives
  - **\*\*Special instruction for addressing younger women**

- (v.2) *“With all purity”* = Good intentioned, cautious, & protective
  - Reminder for the Overseer (man) to guard his witness & the woman’s
- **CONTEXT** (and caveat):
  - Paul is referring to Believers w/in the church
  - Applies to first encounter/conversation a leader has when correcting someone
  - Paul is **NOT** saying a person’s age dictates the leader’s authority as an Under-Shepherd
  - **HENCE** → 1 Tim. 4:11-12
 

- *11 Command and teach these things. 12 Don’t let anyone despise your youth, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.*
  - **HOWEVER** → the Leader must be intentional & Christ-like when engaging nonetheless
- Desired outcome(s):
  - A relationship is required between the leader & the followers
  - The relationship requires Leaders & Believers (followers) to pursue God’s design in humility & unity
    - Leaders are **NOT** to be dictators
    - Followers are **NOT** to be agitators
    - **INSTEAD** → Each is to live out God’s design
  - This is why understanding roles & functions (1 Tim. 3) is so important

- Every part of Paul's letter to Timothy builds on previous instruction
  - **\*\*All instruction points us back to Jesus**
- **ILLUSTRATION:** The family dynamic explained
  - Understanding each person's role
  - Shown how to view & treat one another
  - Understanding responsibility of each role
  - Paul lays foundation for how Timothy is to view the church
  - **ALSO** → Lays foundation for how church members are to view each other
  - **\*\*The call, conduct, and rationale are clearly given**
- **APPLICATION:**
  - This instruction should impact how we view & interact with other Believers
  - **Q:** Are you viewing others in a loving, compassionate way?
  - **Q:** When conflict arises, do you replicate Paul's instructions in how you address others?

## **PILLAR 2: Acknowledging Needs** (v.3-8)

(10 minutes)

*<sup>3</sup> Support widows who are genuinely in need. <sup>4</sup> But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them learn to practice godliness toward their own family first and to repay their parents, for this pleases God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is truly in need and left all alone has put her hope in God and continues night and day in her petitions and prayers; <sup>6</sup> however, she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Command this also, so that*

*they will be above reproach. <sup>8</sup> But if anyone does not provide for his own family, especially for his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

(v.3)

- Acknowledging a need (marginalized group)
  - There are going to be widows w/in the church who are in need
  - (v.3) → *“Support widows who are genuinely in need”*
  - A widow in “genuine need” is:
    - (1) Those w/o family help
    - (2) Those who place their hope in the Lord
    - (v.5-6) → *“The widow who is truly in need and left all alone **has put her hope in God** and continues night and day in her petitions and prayers; <sup>6</sup> however, she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives.*
  - Contrast between widow who seeks God & widow who live for self
    - Paul exhorts Widows to live righteously
    - (v.7) → *<sup>7</sup> Command this also, **so that they will be above reproach***

(v.4)

- Families of widow are responsible to help, too
  - Family = first line of defense
  - (v.4) → *“But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them learn to practice godliness*

*toward their own family first and to repay their parents, for this pleases God.”*

- **THEREFORE** → If a widow’s family can help her, they should help her
- 3 Reasons Families are called to help:
  - **(1) Churches have limited resources**
    - Only so many resources available
    - Cannot help others if some take w/o necessary need
    - The greatest call on the church is to spread the Gospel (not social work)
  - **(2) Taking care of family is a good witness to the world**
    - **(v.4)** → *“But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them learn to practice godliness toward their own family first...”*
    - **CONTEXT:** Jewish & Greco-Roman Culture
      - The Jewish & Gentile world valued widows
      - Normal for families to take in their widowed relatives
      - Book of **Ruth** is example of widows needing a “family redeemer”
    - The Lord calls the Church to be His witness to the world
      - **Matt. 5:14,16** → <sup>14</sup> *“You are the light of the world. ...let your light*

*shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*

- Bad witness if Christians do not care for their widowed relative
  - (v.8) → <sup>8</sup> *But if anyone does not provide for his own family, especially for his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*
- Paul makes clear that to “provide” is a *right* vs. *wrong* situation
  - “*Own family*” = church community
  - “*own household*” = blood family
  - Caring for widowed relatives = living out faith
- (3) “...for this pleases God.” (v.4)
  - The OT & NT reveal call on family & church to serve widows:
    - Ex. 20:12 → “*Honor your father and mother...*”
    - Deut. 10:17-18 → “*The LORD...defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow*”
    - Ex. 22:22 → “*Do not take advantage of a widow...*”

- **James 1:27** → *“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world”*
- **ILLUSTRATION:** Ability to help someone in need
  - You have ability to help someone in need
  - You know you should help them
    - 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> greatest commandment
  - **BUT** → you do **NOT** help b/c it’s an inconvenience
  - Hypocritical → What you say vs. what you do
- **APPLICATION:**
  - **Q:** Are you mindful of your witness and willing to step-in to help church and blood family?
  - **Q:** Have you seen other Christians serve those in need?
  - **Q:** Who in your life has the Lord placed around you that you could serve?

**PILLAR 3: Explanation of Qualifications** (v.9-16)

(10 minutes)

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*original pledge. <sup>13</sup> At the same time, they also learn to be idle, going from house to house; they are not only idle, but are also gossips and busybodies, saying things they shouldn't say. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, I want younger women to marry, have children, manage their households, and give the adversary no opportunity to accuse us. <sup>15</sup> For some have already turned away to follow Satan. <sup>16</sup> If any believing woman has widows in her family, let her help them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it can help widows in **genuine** need.*

(v.9-10)

- Qualifications for widows
  - Must be 60 y/o
  - Been married once (and was faithful)
  - Has a good reputation & track record
  - Makes commitment to keep eyes set on God & church
    - This is indirectly stated in v.9-10, but noted in v.11
  - **CONTEXT:** Cultural relevance of age
    - 60 y/o = retirement
    - Not able to physically work
    - Unlikely to get hired
    - Equivalent to 80+ y/o now
- Importance of one's witness (WORD + ACTIONS)
  - The widow's life is under review
  - Must be accounted for by the church
  - Should represent the Christian walk
    - Similar to v.5 → places faith, hope, & reliance in the Lord
- **ILLUSTRATION:** Covid-19 Stimulus Checks

- Required acknowledging there's a problem
- Thinking about a solution
- Establishing qualifications
- Identifying who should receive help
- Implementing process

(v.11-15)

- Addressing young widows
  - Paul disqualifies younger widows (<60y/o)
    - They will renounce “*pledge*” made to Christ b/c of desire to get married again (v.11-12)
    - They are gossips & busybodies
  - **CONTEXT:** City of Ephesus
    - Remember **Ch.1**...
      - Women were dressing to get attention
      - Women were very sexualized
      - Ephesus was transient
      - Women were listening to & repeating the false teachers
      - Paul commanded Timothy to rebuke them
  - **INSTEAD** → Paul encourages them to...
    - Get married
    - Have children
    - Manage their households
    - Grow in their walk with the Lord

- Avoid causing potential division (as had already happened in Ch.1)

(v.16)

- Final reminder

- *<sup>16</sup> If any believing woman has widows in her family, let her help them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it can help widows in **genuine need**.*
- Final reminder for...
  - (1) Family to help widows
  - (2) Avoid burdening the Church
  - (3) The Church is called to help ***“widows in genuine need”***

- **APPLICATION:**

- **Q:** Do you acknowledge the need, understand the call, and willing to help?
- **Q:** How can you take action steps to be obedient & help meet needs w/in your church?

- Final Reminder/Warning:

- The Church must **NOT** become so fixated on “helping” that we forget the reason we help...
  - The call to love, serve, & provide for widows is **NOT** simply to “do good stuff”
  - **\*\*INSTEAD → The point IS to represent Jesus to the world by keeping focus on Christ**

- The church needs to help for the sake of the [biblical] Gospel → **NOT** social gospel

## **REITERATE BIG IDEA & MAIN POINTS:**

(1 minute)

- **Big Idea:** Christians are called to action & Christ-like conduct
- **Main Points:**
  - 1 – **Laying the Ground Rules** (v.1-2)
  - 2 – **Acknowledging Needs** (v.3-8)
  - 3 – **Explanation of Qualifications** (v.9-16)

## **CLOSE / PRAY:**

(2 minutes)