

1 Timothy 5

Intro:

- What is Paul's reason for writing to Timothy?
 - *Paul wants to instruct Timothy on how the "household" of God should be conducted (1 Timothy 3:14-15).*

Read 1 Timothy 5:1-16

- Based on these verses, what problems are the churches having concerning widows?

The churches had some form of ministry dedicated specifically to helping widows. It appears that there were some widows abusing the churches' help, reaping the blessing of the widow ministry but not faithfully following Jesus by being promiscuous and lazy, especially the younger widows.

- From a church leadership perspective, why do you think it is important to put restrictions on who the church can help?
- From a church leadership perspective, why do you think that Paul chose the restrictions that he did in verses 9-10?
- What problems occurred with the younger widows according to verses 11-15, and what is Paul's solution to this?
- Paul says that putting younger widows on the support list would not be good because it would open them to the temptations of idleness and unchristian behavior.
 - What does it look like in our lives to do something good for someone but potentially not beneficial? (*Examples: Listening to someone "vent" but it becomes gossip; Giving the homeless money when you could give food (not saying don't give the homeless money); Having compassion on someone but showing that you accept their sin and way of life*)
 - When is a time in your life that you were doing good for someone but it wasn't beneficial for them?
 - Is there anyone in your life that you are currently doing that for?

Read 1 Timothy 5:17-25

- What do you think Paul suggests when he quotes "The worker deserves his wages?"
- In verse 22, the "laying on of hands" likely refers to ordaining someone, or appointing them to church leadership. Why does Paul tell Timothy not to be hasty in who he appoints?

Application:

- Pray for your Church and Chi Alpha leadership, that they would be led in wisdom, generosity, discernment, etc.