

INTRODUCTION

Today I continue to speak to you from 1 Timothy chapter 5 on the subject of family duties, our responsibilities to our own relatives.

This letter from Paul to Timothy is not primarily about the family, but about the church, the congregation. Remember how Paul put it,

1 Timothy 3:15 ...I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the congregation of the living God...

The part of 1 Timothy we have reached, chapter 5, is about how the church's duty to those members who cannot earn their own living, and have no family to support them. But part of that doctrine is a reminder what a person's duties are toward his own family, and why fulfilling those duties is so important to a Christian and to his congregation.

So, before speaking to you about the duties of the congregation, I'm speaking to you about the duties of the members of the family toward each other. And before addressing what those duties are, I'm pointing out to you what the Bible says about the importance of fulfilling those duties.

Last time, we read that fulfilling our family duties is good, that is, beneficial, profitable, helpful. We also read that it is acceptable before God, because we are doing what He has commanded, and because we are doing it through faith in Jesus Christ, in whom our imperfect obedience is considered perfect.

Today we continue considering the importance of fulfilling our family duties, by seeing that the scriptures tell us that when we faithfully do our duty toward our own families, we are blameless.

TEXT

1 Timothy 5:7-14

BODY

When we faithfully fulfill our family duties, we are blameless. Consider this with me in two ways:

1. being blameless in the sight of God;
2. being blameless in the sight of men

- I. We Are Blameless In the Sight of God By Believing In Jesus Christ Who Died for Us
 - A. Colossians 1:21-23
 1. translations
 - a) GEN holy and unblameable and without fault
 - b) KJV holy and unblameable and unreprouable
 - c) NKJV, ESV holy, and blameless, and above reproach
 - B. Your previous condition
 1. alienated, strangers
 - a) separated from God's favor
 - b) made a stranger or alien
 - c) someone to be kept out
 2. enemies, hostile in your mind by wicked works, doing evil deeds
 - a) against God being who He is
 - b) against God's law being the true law
 - C. Your condition now, by what He has done - reconciled
 1. no longer a stranger or alien, separated from God by sin
 - a) instead, accepted by Him
 - b) now the opposite of a stranger: a beloved member of the household
 2. no longer an enemy, hostile toward God in your mind
 - a) born again by the Holy Spirit, regenerated
 - b) crying out to God as your Father; loving His law
 - D. How He has done this - through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross
 1. the penalty for sin paid by Jesus Christ, there is no condemnation for those who are in Him
 2. the old man you were, who was against God, has been crucified with Christ, and no longer lives
 - E. How you stand in the sight of God
 1. holy
 2. blameless
 3. above reproach
 - F. This is how you stand now
 1. justification accomplished
 2. sanctification begun
 - G. This is how you will stand in the day of judgment
 1. justification proclaimed
 2. sanctification perfected
 - H. IF you continue in the faith
 1. grounded and steadfast; not moved away from the hope of the gospel
 2. not meaning that you might have faith now, but lose it in the future
 3. but meaning that if you truly believe now, it will be shown by how you continue in the faith all the way to the end

We Are Blameless In the Sight of God By Faith In Jesus Christ Who Died for Us

- II. We Are Blameless In the Sight of Men By Fulfilling Our Family Duties (verse 7)
- A. Blameless or without reproach
 - B. The word G423 *anepileptos*
 - 1. negation + to lay hold of
 - 2. you hear the same root as our medical term “epilepsy”
 - a) epilepsy is characterized by “seizures”
 - b) seizure in this sense is a condition that seems to seize a person, to take hold of him, until it is over
 - 3. but for a person to be “seized” in a legal sense is for him to be arrested on suspicion of having committed a crime
 - 4. here our Greek word means that a man is not subject to being seized or laid hold of justly
 - C. Another word used to mean the same thing G410 *anegkletos*
 - 1. negation + to call in or to accuse
 - 2. a man who is *anegkletos* could not rightly be called in to be accused of anything
 - D. You may remember this term and concept from our study of elders and deacons in chapter 3
 - 1. references
 - a) 1 Timothy 3:2 A bishop then must be **blameless [G423 *anepileptos*]**...
 - b) 1 Timothy 3:10 But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found **blameless [G410 *anegkletos*]**.
 - 2. remember this cannot mean “absolutely, utterly blameless, sinless and perfect in all conduct,” because only our Lord Jesus Christ is like that!
 - 3. nor can this mean “considered blameless in God’s sight through faith,” since that is true of everyone in the church
 - 4. nor yet can it mean “changed to be incorruptible at the coming of Jesus Christ,” since that has not happened yet
 - 5. it means blameless in the sight of men, not guilty of any great, continuing sin
 - E. If we did not fulfill our family duties, we would not be blameless, because we would seem to be denying the very faith we profess (verse 8)
 - 1. All men have natural affections toward our own families
 - a) these affections are created in us by God
 - b) the unbeliever and the believer have this in common
 - 2. These natural affections that God created in us toward our own family move even most unbelievers to provide for their own relatives
 - 3. These natural affections are not diminished by the work of the Holy Spirit in the one who is born again; instead, they are informed and strengthened
 - a) the Christian hears the word of God read, such as the commandments, “Honor thy father and thy mother” and “Thou shalt not steal.”
 - b) the Christian has the Holy Spirit in his heart, causing him to love God’s law
 - 4. So, if a man claims to serve Christ, but will not do his duty toward his own family, his actions speak more loudly than his words, saying that he is not really a Christian

- F. But when we fulfill our family duties, we give the adversary no opportunity to speak reproachfully (verse 14)
1. Always the world, under the sway of the devil, wants to have something bad to say about the disciples of Jesus Christ
 - a) the devil has been a murderer from the beginning, and is the father of all lies
 - b) he hates the salvation of sinners to eternal life in Jesus Christ
 - c) he prowls around like a lion seeking any opportunity to speak reproachfully of the disciples and the congregations of Jesus Christ, to discredit their witness for the gospel
 2. too many times, Christians, in failing to do their duty toward their families, give the church's enemies opportunity to speak reproachfully
 3. when we fulfill our duties of love toward our families, we give the adversary of the gospel no such opportunity
 4. think how well this serves the cause of our welfare in this world
 - a) how can we fire him? he's the best man we have in this company
 - b) I will not do anything to hurt that woman or her children; she is the kindest, best person I've ever met
 - c) no, we're not going to try to shut down churchest---those are the best and most harmless people in the world
 5. think how well this serves the cause of raising our children to fear the Lord
 6. think how well this serves the cause of spreading the gospel, in making disciples, in saving the souls of sinners, showing by our actions that our words are to be believed

CONCLUSION

I am speaking to you of being blameless in the sight of men by fulfilling our family duties. But apply this also to your whole life, all the duties that love requires of you. The Bible teaches us, Romans 13, to render to every person whatever is due him; obey every commandment of the Lord, and so love your neighbor as yourself. When you do what the Lord commands you toward your friends, your neighbors, your co-workers, your customers, your boss, your employees, and all your fellow men, you gain a reputation as being blameless. The people who know you realize you're not perfect, but compared with this present darkness, you shine like lights in the nighttime. When people see that there is nothing wrong with how you live, God helping them, they come to figure there's probably nothing wrong with what you believe. Then they want to know about that. They want to ask you about your religion. They want to listen to your preacher. They want to try going to your church.

By believing in Jesus Christ, we are blameless in the sight of God
By fulfilling our family duties, we are blameless in the sight of men

Alex - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 117

Roel - Scripture Reading - Psalm 37:23-40

Stephen - Congregational Prayer

Jeff - Benediction - 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Rita - Prelude

Rita - Trinity 3 "From All That Dwell Below the Skies"

Allison - Trinity 644 "Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Rita - Trinity 406 "I Hear Thy Welcome Voice"

blameless

G423 *anepileptos*

1 Timothy 6:14 that you keep this commandment without spot, **blameless [G423]** until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing,

Titus 1:6-7 shows us that Paul uses another word in the same place

G410 *anegkletos* cannot be called into account

Titus 1:5-7 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you-- (6) if a man is **blameless [G410 *anegkletos*]**, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. (7) For a bishop must be **blameless [G410 *anegkletos*]**, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,

2 Peter 3:13-14 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (14) Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless [G298];

1 Corinthians 1:7-8 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, (8) who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless [G410] in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:9-10 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, (10) that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense [G677] till the day of Christ,

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 (12) And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, (13) so that He may establish your hearts blameless [G273] in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless [G274] at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

G. APPLICATION

1. the congregation will need pastors and deacons until the Lord comes back (both this congregation and all the others)
2. the will of Jesus Christ is that we choose as pastors and deacons only those men rightly considered blameless
 - a) if the men of the church were to neglect their family duties, they could not be considered blameless, and could not rightly be chosen for office
 - b) so, the church would suffer from lack of qualified men to serve

3. it may be in your mind that, God helping you, you might serve as a pastor or deacon some day, either sometime soon, or far off in the future
 - a) if you do not fulfill your family duties, you cannot rightly be considered blameless, and qualified to be chosen for office
4. let that thought be part of what spurs you on to love and good deeds, to give attention to your family duties

III. We Do Not Burden the Church (verse 16)

- A. When a person neglects his family duties, the result can be that the church is burdened
- B. If the church is so burdened, it may not be able to do its duties as well as it should