

RELATIONS IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

1 Timothy 5:1-2

INTRODUCTION

- Timothy did not have an easy task at Ephesus.
- There was a lot for him to deal with, and it seems that Timothy would have preferred to leave Ephesus to be with Paul (1:3).
- Chapter five deals with interpersonal relationships.
- The Christian has relationship responsibilities in three realms: his church, his family and his society.
- In this chapter, we are given instruction regarding two of those realms of responsibility: the church and the family.

I. THE CHURCH AS A FAMILY

A. The *family* of God consists of all believers

1. We become children of God by faith in Christ (Galatians 3:26)
2. We are born into the family of God by regeneration (John 1:12-13; 3:3)
3. We enjoy the rights and privileges of God's children by adoption (Ephesians 1:5)

B. The *household* of God consists of church members

1. The church is called the "household" and "house" of God (Ephesians 2:19; Galatians 6:10; 1 Timothy 3:15)
2. Christ calls those in His church "brethren" (Hebrews 2:11-12; Matthew 12:46-50)

3. Those in the church referred to one another as “brother” and “sister” (1 Corinthians 7:15; James 2:15)
 4. A bishop’s role as a parent is compared to his care of the church (1 Timothy 3:5)
- C. The church shares many of the characteristics of a family (Note: Luke 18:29-30)

II. THE CONCEPT OF A FAMILY

- A. The right attitude towards one another
1. The way we think determines how we behave
 2. E.g. The way we view God determines how we behave towards Him
 3. How we view others governs how we treat them
- B. The right temperament towards one another
1. “Rebuke not”
 2. “Entreat”

III. THE CONDUCT OF A FAMILY

- A. Elder men as fathers
1. This is not the office of an elder (cf. 5:19), but aged men
 2. The law commands respect to the aged (Leviticus 19:32)
 3. Fathers are to be honoured (Ephesians 6:1-2; Proverbs 30:17)
 4. Rebuke of elders should be done with respect and patience (1 Samuel 3:15-16)

B. Younger men as brethren

1. They are not to be regarded as inferiors but equals
2. Pastors are not to be lords but ensamples (1 Peter 5:3)
3. Brotherhood carries with it openness, honesty, respect and concern for one another.
4. Young people, if treated with respect, usually respond by acting more maturely
5. Youth should not be pampered and pandered to, as happens in many churches
6. They should be valued and taught to serve God

C. Elder women as mothers

1. Not as mothers-in-law
2. They are to be treated with honour and respect (Proverbs 16:31; John 19:27; Romans 16:13)

D. Younger women as sisters

1. Sin in this area has destroyed many churches
2. The devil has brought great reproach on the name of Christ through immorality
3. Adultery leaves a permanent blot on the reputation of a minister (Proverbs 6:32-33)
4. The younger women are to be treated with the wholesome love of a sister (1 Thessalonians 5:22)
5. Immorality in the church should be regarded with the same abhorrence as incest (Deuteronomy 27:22)

6. Paul repeatedly called Timothy to purity (1 Timothy 4:12; 5:22; 2 Timothy 2:22)
 7. The women can help in this area by maintaining modesty in clothing and deportment (1 Timothy 2:9-10; 1 Peter 3:3-4)
- E. These injunctions may also be adapted to apply to older Christians:
1. Older men as brothers
 2. Younger men as sons (Ephesians 6:4)
 3. Older women as sisters
 4. Younger women as daughters (Titus 2:4-5)

CONCLUSION

1. The church is the greatest institution on earth
2. It is the place of God's presence, fellowship, blessing, and His vessel for service
3. It is both the *responsibility* and *privilege* of every believer to be joined to the church in membership
4. Relationships within the church are like those of a family
5. Even in rebuke and discipline, sinning church members are to be treated as brothers (2 Thessalonians 3:14-15)