

**Sunday 22 November 2009**

© [www.usbc.org.uk](http://www.usbc.org.uk)

# **Mentoring 6**

# **1 Timothy 5**



# **Finding Family**

In 1 Timothy 5 Paul speaks of the Church as being a family and how the family treats one another is incredibly important.

- **Healthy attitudes and speech 1 timothy 5.1-2.**

*<sup>1</sup> Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.*

How we speak to one another, how we communicate to one another is really matters -the church is the family of God!

*God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. Eph 1.5 NLT*

So when speaking to older men treat them like fathers, even when in this instance Timothy had to bring correction. Younger men (more like Timothy's peers) treat like brothers, Older women treat as mothers, and younger women as sisters.

In an age when there are so many forms of communication, how we relate to one another is of immense importance.

- **Caring for the Widows 1 timothy 5.3-16.**

Paul is writing this letter to Timothy in Ephesus, a particular church with its own congregation and pastoral needs clearly there is a large group of widows. Acts 6 introduces deacons to us and in that instance a primary need was caring for the widows. This would suggest within the 1<sup>st</sup> century world, many widows were in need.

Scripture identifies many who have needs and within the Old Testament there are many references to the care of the widow, orphans and aliens (foreigners).

*He ensures that orphans and widows receive justice. He shows love to the foreigners living among you and gives them food and clothing Deuteronomy 10.18.*

Paul makes it clear that where there are widows who are in need they should receive support 1 Tim 5.3

Where however their own family can support them; then this is crucial.

*But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. 1 Tim 5.4*

Not to do so, receives the strongest condemnation.

<sup>8</sup> *If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

He also expresses the support that is to be shown to those widows who are over 60 years of age and have served the church in a whole host of ways. These women were to go on a special list. It may well be that they were to be supported by the Church for the ministry they offer.

Paul emphasizes the importance of widows living for God rather than for pleasure. 1 Timothy 5.5-6. the reference to pleasure may refer to those who engaged in promiscuous sexual activity.

His counsel for the young widows is that it would be good for them to remarry. 1 Timothy 5.14.

As we think of our congregation and our community, what are the needs we are aware of? A few examples - within the Church we have those who are looking for employment, we have others who battle against illness or difficulties arising from poor health, we have those who because of age are limited in their life choices. There are others who battle with hidden things such as loneliness and isolation. As with Ephesus within our own church there are those who are widows, or those for whom the church is very much their family. How we seek to care for one another is immensely important.

- **The Care of Elders 1 Timothy 5.17-20**

Generous Support is to be given to those who serve the church as Elders and in particular those who have a teaching and preaching ministry. Paul has already stated that an Elder should not love money 1 Timothy 3.3, this does however the negate care for their needs.

Should an elder act in a way that requires correction, then there must be at least two people who bear witness to this. Where the concern is valid then action is to be taken. Paul recognizes that correcting others is not a pleasant thing and so Timothy is reminded of the importance of not showing partiality.

Because of the important ministry of an elder Paul discourages Timothy of being too hasty in appointing someone into a leadership position.

At USBC we are blessed by the generosity of God and of our church family, as we look to the future then we continually need to look to the ministries

that God is developing among us and within us. Do we see evidence of God's gifting and calling upon those within USBC that can help us as we seek to find new leaders.

- **Taking Care of Yourself.**

*Keep a firm grasp on both your character and your teaching 1 Timothy 4.16.*

Timothy has already been urged by Paul to watch his life and his teaching. He is also instructed to keep himself pure – a reference to the whole of his life. 1 Timothy 5.22. Now on a very practical note Timothy is instructed to care for his body and for his health drinking a little wine would be good. 1 Timothy 5.23.

Do we as Christians take good enough care of ourselves?

- **Taking Care of Slaves & Masters**

*<sup>25</sup> In the same way, good deeds are obvious, and even those that are not cannot be hidden. <sup>1</sup> All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered. <sup>2</sup> Those who have believing masters are not to show less respect for them because they are brothers. Instead, they are to serve them even better, because those who benefit from their service are believers, and dear to them. 1 Timothy 5.25-6.2*

In the 1<sup>st</sup> Century world slavery was commonplace. Paul in writing to Timothy is encouraging him in his care for those within his congregation. Following on from his thought about good deeds, he thinks of those who are slaves. Despite their situation, their lives can speak powerfully for God. This was true when their owner was not a Christian as well as when they were.

With those who are Christians, and where they were members of God's family together; the quality of the work they produced was to be even better because they can serve those whom they care for.

The analogy of slavery and employees and the employed is not an exact one, but how we work does matter and does speak into the lives of others, for us as Christians our work can also be expressions of our worship to God.

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, <sup>24</sup> since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3.23-24.*

Slavery which can come in many guises is something to be opposed, within the UK human trafficking is a real problem. What can we do.....?



## 1 Timothy 5

### New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

[View commentary related to this passage](#)

## 1 Timothy 5

### Advice About Widows, Elders and Slaves

<sup>3</sup> Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need.

<sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.

<sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help.

<sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.

<sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no-one may be open to blame.

<sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

<sup>9</sup> No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband,

<sup>10</sup> and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

<sup>11</sup> As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry.

<sup>12</sup> Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have

broken their first pledge.

<sup>13</sup> Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to.

<sup>14</sup> So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander.

<sup>15</sup> Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.

<sup>16</sup> If any woman who is a believer has widows in her family, she should help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.

<sup>17</sup> The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

<sup>18</sup> For the Scripture says, Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain, and The worker deserves his wages.

<sup>19</sup> Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses.

<sup>20</sup> Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning.

<sup>21</sup> I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favouritism.

<sup>22</sup> Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

<sup>23</sup> Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.

<sup>24</sup> The sins of some men are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them.

<sup>25</sup> In the same way, good deeds are obvious, and even those that are not cannot be hidden.

[New International Version - UK \(NIVUK\)](#)

Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by [Biblica](#)

## The Message (MSG)

[View commentary related to this passage](#)

### 1 Timothy 5

#### The Family of Faith

<sup>1-2</sup>Don't be harsh or impatient with an older man. Talk to him as you would your own father, and to the younger men as your brothers. Reverently honor an older woman as you would your mother, and the younger women as sisters.

<sup>3-8</sup>Take care of widows who are destitute. If a widow has family members to take care of her, let them learn that religion begins at their own doorstep and that they should pay back with gratitude some of what they have received. This pleases God immensely. You can tell a legitimate widow by the way she has put all her hope in God, praying to him constantly for the needs of others as well as her own. But a widow who exploits people's emotions and pocketbooks—well, there's nothing to her. Tell these things to the people so that they will do the right thing in their extended family. Anyone who neglects to care for family members in need repudiates the faith. That's worse than refusing to believe in the first place.

<sup>9-10</sup>Sign some widows up for the special ministry of offering assistance. They will in turn receive support from the church. They must be over sixty, married only once, and have a reputation for helping out with children, strangers, tired Christians, the hurt and troubled.

<sup>11-15</sup>Don't put young widows on this list. No sooner will they get on than they'll want to get off, obsessed with wanting to get a husband rather than serving Christ in this way. By breaking their word, they're liable to go from bad to worse, frittering away their days on empty talk, gossip, and trivialities. No, I'd rather the young widows go ahead and get married in the first place, have children, manage their homes, and not give critics any foothold for finding fault. Some of them have already left and gone after Satan.

<sup>16</sup>Any Christian woman who has widows in her family is responsible for them. They shouldn't be dumped on the church. The church has its hands full already with widows who need help.

<sup>17-18</sup>Give a bonus to leaders who do a good job, especially the ones who work hard at preaching and teaching. Scripture tells us, "Don't muzzle a working ox" and "A worker deserves his pay."

<sup>19</sup>Don't listen to a complaint against a leader that isn't backed up by two or three responsible witnesses.

<sup>20</sup>If anyone falls into sin, call that person on the carpet. Those who are inclined that way will know right off they can't get by with it.

<sup>21-23</sup>God and Jesus and angels all back me up in these instructions. Carry them out without favoritism, without taking sides. Don't appoint people to church leadership positions too hastily. If a person is involved in some serious sins, you don't want to become an unwitting accomplice. In any event, keep a close check on yourself. And don't worry too much about what the critics will say. Go ahead and drink a little wine, for instance; it's good for your digestion, good medicine for what ails you.

<sup>24-25</sup>The sins of some people are blatant and march them right into court. The sins of others don't show up until much later. The same with good deeds. Some you see right off, but none are hidden forever.

[\*The Message \(MSG\)\*](#)

Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002 by [Eugene H. Peterson](#)

## **New Living Translation (NLT)**

[View commentary related to this passage](#)

### **1 Timothy 5**

#### **Advice about Widows, Elders, and Slaves**

<sup>1</sup> Never speak harshly to an older man,<sup>[a]</sup> but appeal to him respectfully as you would to your own father. Talk to younger men as you would to your own brothers. <sup>2</sup> Treat older women as you would your mother, and treat younger women with all purity as you would your own sisters.

<sup>3</sup> Take care of<sup>[b]</sup> any widow who has no one else to care for her. <sup>4</sup> But if she has children or grandchildren, their first responsibility is to show godliness at home and repay their parents by taking care of them. This is something that pleases God.

<sup>5</sup> Now a true widow, a woman who is truly alone in this world, has placed her hope in God. She prays night and day, asking God for his help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives only for pleasure is spiritually dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give these instructions to the church so that no one will be open to criticism.

<sup>8</sup> But those who won't care for their relatives, especially those in their own household, have denied the true faith. Such people are worse than unbelievers.

<sup>9</sup> A widow who is put on the list for support must be a woman who is at least sixty years old and was faithful to her husband.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>10</sup> She must be well respected by everyone because of the good she has done. Has she brought up her children well? Has she been kind to strangers and served other believers humbly?<sup>[d]</sup> Has she helped those who are in trouble? Has she always been ready to do good?

<sup>11</sup> The younger widows should not be on the list, because their physical desires will overpower their devotion to Christ and they will want to remarry. <sup>12</sup> Then they would be guilty of breaking their previous pledge. <sup>13</sup> And if they are on the list, they will learn to be lazy and will spend their time gossiping from house to house, meddling in other people's business and talking about things they shouldn't. <sup>14</sup> So I advise these younger widows to marry again, have children, and take care of their own homes. Then the enemy will not be able to say anything against them. <sup>15</sup> For I am afraid that some of them have already gone astray and now follow Satan.

<sup>16</sup> If a woman who is a believer has relatives who are widows, she must take care of them and not put the responsibility on the church. Then the church can care for the widows who are truly alone.

<sup>17</sup> Elders who do their work well should be respected and paid well,<sup>[e]</sup> especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching. <sup>18</sup> For the Scripture says, "You must not muzzle an ox to keep it from eating as it treads out the grain." And in another place, "Those who work deserve their pay!"<sup>[f]</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Do not listen to an accusation against an elder unless it is confirmed by two or three witnesses. <sup>20</sup> Those who sin should be reprimanded in front of the whole church; this will serve as a strong warning to others.

<sup>21</sup> I solemnly command you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus and the holy angels to obey these instructions without taking sides or showing favoritism to anyone.

<sup>22</sup> Never be in a hurry about appointing a church leader.<sup>[g]</sup> Do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

<sup>23</sup> Don't drink only water. You ought to drink a little wine for the sake of your stomach because you are sick so often.

<sup>24</sup> Remember, the sins of some people are obvious, leading them to certain judgment. But there are others whose sins will not be revealed until later. <sup>25</sup> In the same way, the good deeds of some people are obvious. And the good deeds done in secret will someday come to light.

#### Footnotes:

- a. [1 Timothy 5:1](#) Or *an elder*.
- b. [1 Timothy 5:3](#) Or *Honor*.
- c. [1 Timothy 5:9](#) Greek *was the wife of one husband*.
- d. [1 Timothy 5:10](#) Greek *and washed the feet of God's holy people?*
- e. [1 Timothy 5:17](#) Greek *should be worthy of double honor*.
- f. [1 Timothy 5:18](#) Deut 25:4; Luke 10:7.
- g. [1 Timothy 5:22](#) Greek *about the laying on of hands*.

#### [New Living Translation \(NLT\)](#)

*Holy Bible. New Living Translation copyright © 1996, 2004 by [Tyndale Charitable Trust](#). Used by permission of [Tyndale House Publishers](#).*



#### Contemporary English Version (CEV)

[Listen to this passage](#)

[View commentary related to this passage](#)

## 1 Timothy 5

### How To Act toward Others

<sup>1</sup>Don't correct an older man. Encourage him, as you would your own father. Treat younger men as you would your own brother, <sup>2</sup>and treat older women as you would your own mother. Show the same respect to younger women that you would to your sister.

<sup>3</sup>Take care of any widow who is really in need. <sup>4</sup>But if a widow has children or grandchildren, they should learn to serve God by taking care of her, as she once took care of them. This is what God wants them to do. <sup>5</sup>A widow who is really in need is one who doesn't have any relatives. She has faith in God, and she keeps praying to him night and day, asking for his help.

<sup>6</sup>A widow who thinks only about having a good time is already dead, even though she is still alive.

<sup>7</sup>Tell all of this to everyone, so they will do the right thing. <sup>8</sup>People who don't take care of their relatives, and especially their own families, have given up their faith. They are worse than someone who doesn't have faith in the Lord.

<sup>9</sup>For a widow to be put on the list of widows, she must be at least sixty years old, and she must have been faithful in marriage. <sup>[a]</sup> <sup>10</sup>She must also be well-known for doing all sorts of good things, such as raising children, giving food to strangers, welcoming God's people into her home, <sup>[b]</sup> helping people in need, and always making herself useful. <sup>11</sup>Don't put young widows on the list. They may later have a strong desire to get married. Then they will turn away from Christ <sup>12</sup>and become guilty of breaking their promise to him. <sup>13</sup>Besides, they will become lazy and get into the habit of going from house to house. Next, they will start gossiping and become busybodies, talking about things that are none of their business.

<sup>14</sup>I would prefer that young widows get married, have children, and look after their families. Then the enemy won't have any reason to say insulting things about us. <sup>15</sup>Look what's already happened to some of the young widows! They have turned away to follow Satan.

<sup>16</sup>If a woman who is a follower has any widows in her family, she <sup>[c]</sup> should help them. This will keep the church from having that burden,

and then the church can help widows who are really in need.

### Church Leaders

<sup>17</sup>Church leaders <sup>[d]</sup> who do their job well deserve to be paid <sup>[e]</sup> twice as much, especially if they work hard at preaching and teaching. <sup>18</sup>It is just as the Scriptures say, "Don't muzzle an ox when you are using it to grind grain." You also know the saying, "Workers are worth their pay." <sup>19</sup>Don't listen to any charge against a church leader, unless at least two or three people bring the same charges. <sup>20</sup>But if any of the leaders should keep on sinning, they must be corrected in front of the whole group, as a warning to everyone else.

<sup>21</sup>In the presence of God and Christ Jesus and their chosen angels, I order you to follow my instructions! Be fair with everyone, and don't have any favorites.

<sup>22</sup>Don't be too quick to accept people into the service of the Lord <sup>[f]</sup> by placing your hands on them. Don't sin because others do, but stay close to God.

<sup>23</sup>Stop drinking only water. Take a little wine to help your stomach trouble and the other illnesses you always have.

<sup>24</sup>Some people get caught in their sins right away, even before the time of judgment. But other people's sins don't show up until later. <sup>25</sup>It is the same with good deeds. Some are easily seen, but none of them can be hidden.

### Footnotes:

- a. [1 Timothy 5:9](#) *been faithful in marriage*: Or "been the wife of only one husband" or "never been divorced."
- b. [1 Timothy 5:10](#) *welcoming God's people into her home*: The Greek text has "washing the feet of God's people." In New Testament times most people either went barefoot or wore sandals, and a host would often wash the feet of special guests.
- c. [1 Timothy 5:16](#) *woman. . . she*: Some manuscripts have "man or woman. . . that person."
- d. [1 Timothy 5:17](#) *leaders*: Or "elders" or "presbyters" or "priests."
- e. [1 Timothy 5:17](#) *paid*: Or "honored" or "respected."
- f. [1 Timothy 5:22](#) *to accept people into the service of the Lord*: Or

"to forgive people."

### ***Deuteronomy 14:28-29 (New International Version)***

<sup>28</sup> At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns, <sup>29</sup> so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the aliens, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

### ***Psalms 68:4-6 (New International Version)***

- <sup>4</sup> Sing to God, sing praise to his name,  
extol him who rides on the clouds <sup>[a]</sup>—  
his name is the LORD—  
and rejoice before him.
- <sup>5</sup> A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,  
is God in his holy dwelling.
- <sup>6</sup> God sets the lonely in families, <sup>[b]</sup>  
he leads forth the prisoners with singing;  
but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land

### ***Psalms 68 (New International Version)***

#### **Psalm 68**

**For the director of music. Of David. A psalm. A song.**

- <sup>1</sup> May God arise, may his enemies be scattered;  
may his foes flee before him.
- <sup>2</sup> As smoke is blown away by the wind,  
may you blow them away;  
as wax melts before the fire,  
may the wicked perish before God.
- <sup>3</sup> But may the righteous be glad  
and rejoice before God;  
may they be happy and joyful.

- <sup>4</sup> Sing to God, sing praise to his name,  
extol him who rides on the clouds <sup>[a]</sup>—  
his name is the LORD—  
and rejoice before him.
- <sup>5</sup> A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,  
is God in his holy dwelling.
- <sup>6</sup> God sets the lonely in families, <sup>[b]</sup>  
he leads forth the prisoners with singing;  
but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.
- <sup>7</sup> When you went out before your people, O God,  
when you marched through the wasteland,  
Selah

### ***Acts 6:1 (New International Version)***

#### **Acts 6**

##### **The Choosing of the Seven**

<sup>1</sup>In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

### ***James 1:27 (New International Version)***

<sup>27</sup>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.