

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IS LIKE A FAMILY

1 Timothy 5:1-25

Key Verse: 5:8

* ETHICAL RELATIONSHIPS OF A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY (1-8)

1. Read verses 1-2. If one has respect for people, how should he treat older men? Younger men? Older women? Younger women? How might one without basic respect treat these people?
2. Read verse 3. What is the situation of a widow? How can we learn to see others with the eyes of respect? How do verses 1-3 reflect the basic equality and value of all people?
3. Read verses 4-7. What responsibility do we have for those who are really in need of our help? What kind of widows are really in need?

4. What two ways are open to a widow? Where should she put her hope and how can she glorify God with her precious life? (What was the example of Anna in Luke 2:36-38?)
5. What kind of widow is dead even while she lives? Why does Paul say this?
6. Read verse 8. Who is our real family? (Mk 3:35) What responsibility do we have for weak or needy family members?
- * THE ART OF REBUKING (9-25)
7. Read verses 9-10. What kind of widows qualify to be ordained as elders?
8. What warning does he give to younger widows? Why are such women especially vulnerable to temptation? (11-16) How does he counsel younger widows? Why? (14-16)
9. Read verses 17-19. Why are some elders worthy of double honor? What does this mean? How are accusations against elders to be dealt with?

10. What should be done about obvious and hidden sinners? (20-25) How was Timothy to prepare himself to carry out Paul's difficult instructions? What can we learn from this chapter about living as a part of the Christian community?