

Care for each other carefully

1 Timothy 5:1-16

I. Church leaders must address spiritual needs carefully (1 Timothy 5:1-2).

A. Correct older men graciously like a dad (5:1a).

B. Care for others as if they were family (5:1b-2).

Principle: Leaders can't excuse being harsh or improper.

II. A church must meet physical needs carefully (1 Timothy 5:3-16).

A. The ministry of the church to widows (5:3-8)

1. Honor truly needy widows with support (5:3).

2. Carefully evaluate who to help (5:4-8).

- Should family help instead (4, 8)?
- Does she pursue God or live sinfully (5-6)?
- Be accountable for being careful (7).

Principle: Give generously, but discern the truly needy.

B. The ministry of widows to the church (5:9-15)

1. Supported widows must be part of a ministry serving others (9-10).

- Must be 60+ with good reputations

2. This ministry is not for young widows who must avoid sin and hopefully remarry (11-15).

Principle: Those who receive must seek ways to serve.

Principle: Character matters for givers or receivers.

C. Married women should personally help widows in their family so the church won't need to (16).

Principle: Don't expect the church meet a need if you can.