

Devotional Questions – 1 Timothy 5:1-25, Study Leader’s Questions

1. *What is the importance of these first two verses about how to treat other people in the gospel community?*
2. *How is the treatment of widows connected to the [5]th commandment (Exodus 20:12)?*
3. *What two things [are] said of one who will not provide for his own family – why/how (1 Timothy 5:8)?*
4. *What is the principle of the church behind 1 Timothy 5:3-16?*
5. *What Scriptures does Paul quote from (1 Timothy 5:18)?*
6. *What words of caution does Paul give Timothy (1 Timothy 5:22)?*
7. *What is true in regards to both sin and good works (1 Timothy 5:24-25)?*
8. *How are sins and good deeds revealed?*
9. *What does this passage teach us about the church?*

Devotional Questions – 1 Timothy 5:1-25, Answers to Questions

For detailed comments see Dr Ruckman's commentary *Pastoral Epistles* pp 99-117 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 928, 1584-1585, 1649.

1. *What is the importance of these first two verses about how to treat other people in the gospel community?*

1 Timothy 5:1-2 summarise the right attitudes, dealings and relationships between all grown-up members of the fellowship, in particular the local church. Concerning treatment of individuals:

- *Any elder man*

With *deference* even when in disagreement “*as a father*”

“Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD” Leviticus 19:32, as applicable then as now.

- *Younger men*

With *fidelity* as fellow disciples “*as brethren*”

“But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren”
Matthew 23:8.

- *Elder women*

With *devotion* “*as mothers*”

“Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old”
Proverbs 23:22.

- *Younger women*

“With all purity...as sisters”

“A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed” Song of Solomon 4:12 for purity in friendship, courtship and marital relationship.

In sum, **“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins”** 1 Peter 4:8 because **“charity edifieth”** 1 Corinthians 8:1, which is **“building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost”** Jude 20 i.e. be an encourager.

2. *How is the treatment of widows connected to the [5]th commandment (Exodus 20:12)?*

Exodus 20:12 states **“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.”** See also Ephesians 6:2, 3.

1 Timothy 5:3 states **“Honour widows that are widows indeed.”**

“Widows indeed” are those that 1 Timothy 5:9, 10 describe. Such widows without immediate family are to be honoured by being provided for according to 1 Timothy 5:8 because even though they have no immediate family, they are part of the church family according to 1 Timothy 5:1-2 and, contingent on the application of 1 Timothy 5:9, 10, the stipulation of the Lord Jesus Christ in that they are among **“his own”** 1 Timothy 5:8.

“For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother” Matthew 12:50.

“For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother”
Mark 3:35.

3. What two things [are] said of one who will not provide for his own family – why/how (1 Timothy 5:8)?

- “***he hath denied the faith***”

He has rejected the example of the Lord Jesus Christ by refusing to “provide...for his own, and specially for those of his own house” 1 Timothy 5:8 and in turn rejected “the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ” James 2:1, Who entrusted His widowed mother to “the disciple whom Jesus loved” John 21:20. Provision for immediate family is for both *here* and *hereafter*. All providers for immediate family should therefore make out a Will.

“When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home” John 19:26-27.

- “***he...is worse than an infidel***”

“*An infidel*” does not have “*the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ*” James 2:1 to deny.

“And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith” Deuteronomy 32:20.

That makes the negligent *saved* provider even more “*forward*” i.e. in pulling back from “*the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ*” James 2:1, Who gave assurance of provision in promising “Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full” John 16:24. The *saved* provider is therefore “*worse than an infidel*” if he forsakes his family’s welfare because he has rejected the “*exceeding great and precious promises*” 2 Peter 1:4 from the Lord Jesus Christ such as John 16:24.

4. What is the principle of the church behind 1 Timothy 5:3-16?

Paul encapsulated that principle in his first letter to the Thessalonians for all church conduct. Note especially the underlined phrases that have specific application to bogus widows and genuine widows respectively.

“Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men” 1 Thessalonians 5:14.

5. What Scriptures does Paul quote from (1 Timothy 5:18)?

- “**Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn**” Deuteronomy 25:4.

Paul quotes this scripture in his first letter to the Corinthian Church.

“For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?” 1 Corinthians 9:9.

God does “*take care for oxen*” because “*A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast*” Proverbs 12:10 but Paul’s citation of Deuteronomy 25:4 in 1 Corinthians 9:9 is the same context as 1 Timothy 5:18 for the benefit of “*they who labour in the word and doctrine*” 1 Timothy 5:17. That labour is time-consuming and should therefore be properly recompensed by those who benefit from it, as Paul also states to the Corinthians.

“If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?... Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel” 1 Corinthians 9:11, 14.

Note that the word “*doctrine*” occurs **8** times in 1 Timothy in the AV1611 but only **twice** in the 1984, 2011 NIVs. The NKJV has all 8 occurrences of “*doctrine*” in 1 Timothy but note that the word “*doctrine*” occurs **51** times in scripture in the AV1611 but only **37** times in the NKJV and only **5** times in the NIVs. The word “*doctrine*” should be retained because it refers to “doctors of the law” Luke 5:17 who should therefore instruct in the scripture!

- “*And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house*” Luke 10:7.

Luke 10:7 has the same sense as 1 Corinthians 9:9, 11, 14, 1 Timothy 5:17, 18. See above. Paul’s citation of Luke 10:7 in 1 Timothy 5:18 shows that he was familiar with “*the words of our Lord Jesus Christ*” 1 Timothy 6:3, as Paul urges Timothy and today’s believer to be.

“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus” 2 Timothy 1:13.

Note that 2 Timothy 1:13 refers to “*words*” not merely “*teaching*” as in the NIVs because the Lord Jesus Christ said “*the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life*” John 6:63 i.e. no spiritual life without “*sound words*,” “*the words of our Lord Jesus Christ*” 1 Timothy 6:3.

6. What words of caution does Paul give Timothy (1 Timothy 5:22)?

- “*Lay hands suddenly on no man*”

Paul’s warning here has to do with unwise appointments of church officers in haste. It has a wider application to the dangers of undue haste e.g. with respect to impulsive speech.

“Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him”
Proverbs 29:20.

See:

www.o-bible.com/BiblicalInformation/ENGAGE-BRAIN-BEFORE-PUTTING-MOUTH-IN-GEAR.html Ensure that brain is engaged before putting mouth in gear.

Note King David’s prayer:

“Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips” Psalm 141:3.

- “*neither be partaker of other men’s sins*”

Observe and apply the wisdom of King Solomon.

“Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away” Proverbs 4:14-15.

“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed”
Proverbs 13:20.

- “*keep thyself pure*”

Note Paul’s exhortation to Timothy and in turn to today’s believer at the conclusion of the previous chapter with respect to *continuance in “good doctrine”* 1 Timothy 4:6 and “*sound doctrine*” Titus 1:9, 2:1 for individual purity and sanctification. Note also the further apostolic exhortations for individual purity.

“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee” 1 Timothy 4:16.

Flee and follow:

“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart” 2 Timothy 2:22.

Obey the truth through the Spirit and love one another

“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently” 1 Peter 1:22.

Look forward to the Lord's Return

“...when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure” 1 John 3:2-3.

7. What is true in regards to both sin and good works (1 Timothy 5:24-25)?

They may be apparent or they may not be apparent on earth but “**they...cannot be hid”** 1 Timothy 5:25. Note again King Solomon’s wisdom.

“For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” Ecclesiastes 12:14.

8. How are sins and good deeds revealed?

They will be revealed by the judgement of God “**by Jesus Christ”** at the Second Advent, which is “**the day of Christ”** Philippians 1:10, 2:16, 2 Thessalonians 2:2 as Paul explains to the Romans and the Corinthians, with respect to both sins by saved and unsaved men and good deeds.

“For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law...In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel” Romans 2:12, 16.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” 2 Corinthians 5:10. See over-page.

9. What does this passage teach us about the church?

The church is or should be made up of saved individuals and is or should be under the ministry of the Holy Ghost.

“Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied” Acts 9:31.

“**The comfort of the Holy Ghost**” is that of “**the seven Spirits of God”** Revelation 3:1, 4:5, 5:6 as Isaiah identifies them.

*Note the match between Isaiah 11:2 and Acts 9:31 with respect to “**the fear of the LORD.”***

“And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD” Isaiah 11:2.

The church, any church, “**walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost”** should therefore show forth *locally* the following attributes:

- “**the household of God”** Ephesians 2:19 with 1 Timothy 5:1, 2
- “**a succourer of many”** Romans 16:2 with 1 Timothy 5:3, 5, 9, 10, 16
- “**a pattern of good works”** Titus 2:7 with 1 Timothy 5:4, 14, 16, 21, 22, 23
- “**An instructor of the foolish”** Romans 2:20 with 1 Timothy 5:6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20, 24
- “**none occasion to the adversary”** 1 Timothy 5:14
- “**a vessel unto honour”** 2 Timothy 2:21 with 1 Timothy 5:17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25
- “**the pillar and ground of the truth”** 1 Timothy 3:15 with 1 Timothy 5:24, 25.

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them” John 13:17.



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“Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men” 2 Corinthians 5:11