

Small Group Discussion Notes for 1 Timothy 5

Begin by reading the entire chapter

- Why do you think it was necessary for the early Church to set up guidelines for things?
- In **verses 1 and 2** Paul gives church leaders guidelines for dealing with different age groups and genders. What do you see as the main reason behind Paul's instructions here?
- Quite a bit of this chapter deals with how WIDOWS were to be treated (fourteen verses, **5:3–16**), especially those who pledged themselves to a life-long ministry of serving the saints. Why do you suppose this was such an important topic for the Church?
- From what you've learned, what kinds of hardships did widows face in Bible times?
- Even today, widows have unique needs that can possibly "slip through the cracks." What needs have you seen go unmet? How could you help?
- Have two different people in your group look up and read **Exodus 22:22–24** and **Deuteronomy 24:19-21** out loud. What did God command concerning widows in these passages?
- Why would Paul say that a widow with children or grandchildren was not "really in need" (**5:3–4**)?
- What thought have you given to taking care of family members when they can no longer take care of themselves?
- In **5:6** Paul speaks of the self-indulgent widow who is "**dead even while she lives.**" This is an apt description of any unbeliever. What goes through your mind when you're interacting with someone who is physically alive but spiritually dead?
- In **5:17** the Apostle turns to **elders/pastors** and says those who lead well and especially those who preach and teach, are worthy of "**double honor.**" According to the context, what does he mean by that?
- Pastor Paul addressed the issue of Pastors/elders not being "employees of the church" but rather servants of the Lord. What did you think of his statements along those lines?
- What kind of attitude and behavioral differences would you expect from a pastor who is called by God versus one who was hired as an employee?
- In **verse 20** Paul says that a Pastor/Elder who persistently sins must be rebuked publicly. Why do you think this is necessary?
- Why is **verse 22** such good advice?
- What is the meaning of **verses 24-25** and why would these comments be helpful to Timothy?