

1 Timothy
The Challenge of Being the Church
1 Timothy 5:1-16 (page 830)

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Right relationships are necessary to preserve unity in a diverse family (1 Tim 5:1-16)

I am to be respectful of others in my relationships in the church family (vs 1-2)

- I am to relate to those:
 - older than myself as to a father or mother (Lev19:32; Exo 20:12)
 - younger than myself as to a brother or sister (Matt 12:46-49)

I am to honor those who are most vulnerable in the church family - widows (vs 3-16; Deut 10:18; 24:19-21; Psalm 68:5-6; 146:9; John 19:26-27; Acts 6:1-7)

General principles for the care of widows:

- The immediate family has the primary responsibility to care for their own (v 4, 8; Prov 17:6; Mark 7:9-13)

- The church is to care for those widows who:
 - have absolutely no one to care for them (v 3; Psalm 102:17; Proverbs 31:8-9)
 - evidence devotion to God rather than to personal pleasure (v 5-6; Luke 2:36-37)
 - are over the age of sixty (v 9a)
 - have been faithful to their husband (v 9b)
 - have a witness in the church of service to others (10)
- The church is not to support younger widows:
 - because they will naturally desire to remarry (v 11-12)
 - they may be tempted to become disruptive to the church rather than effectively servicing (v 13)
 - They should remarry and re-invest in the home (vs 14-15; 1 Cor 7:8-9, 39)
- These principles free the church to use resources to provide for those with no other resources available. (5:16)