

# LOVE IN ACTION

## 1 Timothy 5

In chapter five, the Apostle Paul instructs Timothy in three ways love is to be lived out practically in the life of the church starting with Timothy himself.

### **Treat Your Church Family with Love and Respect**

#### **1 Timothy 5:1-2**

The term *rebuke* is a strong term meaning to express strong disapproval, to denounce. The Apostle Paul is admonishing Timothy to watch his tone and attitude especially when needing to correct. The term *encourage* means to appeal to someone to do something. In this context it means to win people over rather than bash people into compliance. When Timothy needs to correct, he needs to think about how to do it as if he was correcting his own father, his brother, his mother or his sister. The main application of 1 Timothy 5:1-2 is this: *Grace leaders and teachers are to treat members of the Grace family with the same love and respect with which they would treat their personal family members, especially in times of conflict and correction.*

### **Care for Your Widows**

#### **1 Timothy 5:3-16**

**5:3** *Honor* here refers to financially supporting widows as an expression of our love for them.

**5:4-8** Widows unable to care for themselves should be cared for by their families. It is the opportunity for children to repay their mother. If a family refuses to care for their widowed mother or grandmother, they bring shame on themselves and the name of Christ; it's as if they don't even know Jesus. Even unbelievers know it is their duty to care for their widowed mothers and grandmothers.

**5:9-15** Widows without family, without the likelihood of remarriage and who meet the criteria laid out in verses 9-15 are those who should be enrolled on the "Widows Love Fund". A qualified widow is one who was faithful to her husband and children; has a reputation for good works; opened her home to strangers and cares for the suffering. It seems that a widow thus enrolled made a pledge to the church to the affect that, being enabled by the church's aid, she would dedicate herself to serving Jesus and the church family. This would explain one reason Paul disallowed the enrollment of younger widows. Paul disallowed enrollment of younger widows for these reasons: if they remarried, they broke their pledge to the Lord and to the church. Second, the church's financial aid would free up their time and "enable" some to become lazy and meddlesome stirring up drama and division within the church family. Timothy should encourage the younger widows to remarry, have children and give Satan no opportunity to trouble the church through them.

**5:16** A widow might not have immediate family in the church, but extended family. After the immediate, the extended family is responsible to care for a widow. This helps the church be able to care for widows who have no family immediate or extended. The main application of 1 Timothy 5:3-16 is this: *We are to love our widows and provide financial aid if the need exists.*

### **Support, Discipline and Carefully Select Elders**

#### **1 Timothy 5:17-25**

**5:17-18** Out of love and appreciation, it is appropriate for the church family to compensate the Elders who rule well and who preach/teach the Word. This frees those men to give their time and energy to leading and to studying the Word.

**5:19-21** Timothy is to discipline those elders whose sin has been proven by two or three witnesses. If an Elder refuses to repent and do the works of repentance, he is to be rebuked before the whole church to shame him and move him to repentance. This will also put a healthy fear in the other Elders to fly right. When the Apostle Paul wrote *In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you...* he was essentially saying all of heaven was behind these rules. At the very least it emphasizes the critical importance of protecting the eldership from corruption. When Paul admonishes Timothy to keep these rules of discipline without prejudging, he is warning Timothy to not decide an Elder's guilt or innocence based on Timothy's relationship with the Elder, but based on the evidence given by the two or three witnesses. Timothy is to show no partiality for or against an Elder. His commitment must be to lead the Elders to function in truth and love.

**5:22-25** It is a big mistake to install a man as an Elder too quickly. Here, the Apostle Paul taught Timothy to take his time. Time allows a man's reputation to catch up with him. Only through patience and time, can a church family verify a man's character. So don't rush the selection process for an Elder. The main application of 1 Timothy 5:17-25 is this: *Our Elders should be compensated, disciplined when necessary and selected carefully and slowly.*

May love be the aroma of Grace Church as our leaders treat us with love and respect, as we love and provide for our widows and as we take seriously the selection, care and integrity of those men who would lead us to love.

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## **GRACE NEWS AND NEEDS**

- ***Church Business Meeting, Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4PM, Childcare provided.***
- ***Walk for Life sign-ups on the patio.***
- ***Women's Tea & Luncheon, Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1-3PM, Sign-Up on Patio!***
- ***VOM Needs for April: financial donations to purchase needed items.***