

# Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



## I Timothy Part-6 (chapter 5) KJV

2.14.2024

## Chapter 5

### Church Family | Widows| Elders

**CHURCH FAMILY (1-2):** What should be the nature of our relationship with our fellow believers?

**WIDOWS (3-16):** Why is special attention given to widows? Who are the 'real widows' and 'dead widows? What is the responsibility of church towards widows? What counsel can we give young widows?

**ELDERS (17-22):** How should elders be treated? What does 'double honor' mean? Who are elders accountable to? How should elders be disciplined?

**WINE (23):** What is the recommended daily dosage for wine?

**JUSTICE (24-25):** Are all sins punished? Are all good deeds rewarded?

4:16 Take heed unto thyself,  
and unto the doctrine.  
Continue in them.



# Relationship with believers in church (1-2)

Older men. Elderly women.

Younger men & Younger Women.

## Relationship with believers in church (1-2)

<sup>1</sup> Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;

<sup>2</sup> The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

# Relationship with believers in church family

## Older Men

Respect

Treat as fathers

Do not rebuke older men

Be patient (as they may have limitations)

Leviticus 19: <sup>32</sup>Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man, and fear thy God:

# Relationship with believers in church family

## Elder women

- as mothers (show respect, honor, appreciation, love as we would with our own mothers)

## Younger Men

- as brothers

## Younger women

- as sisters, with all purity

What  
fundamental  
principle  
should guide  
our  
relationships  
in church?



**.LOVE.**



**John 13:35** By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

# Treatment of Widows in Church (3-16)

Why is special attention given to widows?

Who are the 'real widows' and 'dead widows'?

What is the responsibility of church towards widows?

What counsel can we give young widows?



# Widows (3-16)

<sup>3</sup> Honor widows that are widows indeed.

<sup>4</sup> But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.

<sup>5</sup> Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.

<sup>6</sup> But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.

<sup>7</sup> And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless.

<sup>8</sup> But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

<sup>9</sup> Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man.

<sup>10</sup> Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieve

# Widows (3-16)

<sup>11</sup> But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry;

<sup>12</sup> Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith.

<sup>13</sup> And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

<sup>14</sup> I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

<sup>15</sup> For some are already turned aside after Satan.

<sup>16</sup> If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.

# Care & Honor for widows in OT and NT

**EXODUS 22:22** Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child.

**DEUTERONOMY 24:17** Thou shalt not . . . . take a widow's raiment to pledge:

**ISAIAH 1:17** Plead for the widows

**PSALMS 68:5** A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation.

**MARK 12:38-40** beware of scribes . . . which devour widows' houses . . . these shall receive greater damnation

**JAMES 1:27** Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

# Why care about widows?

## Why special attention to widows?

They may not have a steady source of income

They may not be able to work (due to age, health issues)

They may not have support network of children and family

# Widows with family members (4, 8, 16)

<sup>4</sup> But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.

<sup>8</sup> But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

<sup>16</sup> If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.

# Responding to Widows with family members (4, 8, 16)

Widows with family members should not expect support from church

Children or family members should take care of widows in their family.

This is good and acceptable before God.

One who rejects widows within their own family is worse than an infidel (unbeliever).

# Living widows and dead widows

<sup>5</sup> Now she that is a widow indeed,  
and desolate, trusteth in God,  
and continueth in supplications  
and prayers night and day.

<sup>6</sup> But she that liveth in pleasure is  
dead while she liveth.

**Real/living widows** must be assisted by church (see next slide)

widow indeed (see next slide)

desolate, trusts in God

lives a life of prayer for church (ex., Anna)

**Luke 2:<sup>36</sup>** There was also a prophet ...and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

## **Dead widows**

living in pleasure and sinful lifestyle

dead widow needs the gospel ... not handouts

she needs to be counseled and brought back to the Lord

**Dead Humans** Without Christ in our lives, we are all dead (Ephesians 2:1)

# Identifying Real widows that church should support

Who are the Real widows (3,5) who should be supported by church?

1. Does not have family members to support her (4,8,16)
2. Is not living in sin (6)
3. Is over 60-year old (9)
4. Reputation of good works (raising children, hospitality, taking care of saints, taking care of sick/afflicted) (10)
  - when she was able and healthy, she contributed to church... now when she is in need she must be taken care of by church.

We can extend the principle of treating “real widows” to “real spinsters” and “those who are really poor” in church.

**Galatians 6:10** As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.



## Younger widows

<sup>11</sup> But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry;

<sup>12</sup> Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith.

<sup>13</sup> And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

<sup>14</sup> I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

<sup>15</sup> For some are already turned aside after Satan.

<sup>16</sup> If any woman who is a believer has widows in her care, she should continue to help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.

# Counsel for Young widows

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Younger widows need right counsel, and not lifetime of church assistance

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Encouraged to remarry (14)

forbidding them to marry is false teaching (ITimothy4:3)

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Remarry and raise children, guide the house (14)

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Work and support family

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Continue in faith and godliness (12)

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Avoid wasting time through laziness and gossiping (13)

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Must not give reason to anyone to question your testimony (14,15)

# Treating Elders (17-22)

How should elders be treated?  
What does 'double honor' mean?  
Who are elders accountable to?  
How should elders be  
disciplined?

## Treating Elders

<sup>17</sup> Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine.

<sup>18</sup> For the scripture saith, thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The laborer is worthy of his reward.

<sup>19</sup> Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.

<sup>20</sup> Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

<sup>21</sup> I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.

<sup>22</sup> Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

## DOUBLE HONOR

<sup>17</sup> Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine.

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## Double honor?

Respect | Financial support (if needy, like full time ministers)

Respect: I Thessalonians 5:12-13 "... know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; <sup>13</sup> And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake.

Reward: Just as ox should not be deprived of its share of grain (Deuteronomy 25:4), elders/laborers in His vineyard should not be deprived of their deserving share. (Luke 10:7, laborer is worthy of his hire)

Pastors/Elders should not be motivated to do ministry for money. They must be faithful servants and be worthy of double honor.

# Accusing elders

<sup>19</sup> Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. <sup>20</sup> Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

## Do not entertain rumors/gossip/accusation against elders (19)

- Investigate if the accusation is true
- Have two or three witnesses

## How to respond if pastor/elder found guilty?

- Public rebuke is public shame and is effective in deterring others from committing similar sins (20)
- Maybe good to confront elders directly before making it public.
  - Must prayerfully proceed on the chosen course of action.

**Do not be partial or biased** ... Judgement must be based on the Word of God and objective data (and not personal emotions and biases) (21)

# Accusing elders

**Accountability:** Accountable to the Lord, oversight, co-workers, and congregation.

- Elders who are faithfully following the Lord and boldly proclaiming the sound doctrine of God should not fear accusations/criticisms from the congregation or other elders.

## Why confront sin of elders?

1. The testimony of the local church must not be tainted by corrupt elders
2. Glory of church (the bride of Christ) must not be compromised
3. Many false teachers have entered the church as elders (wolf in sheep clothing, Mathew 7:15)
4. Unrepentant sins must be dealt with.
5. To restore fallen elders

- Depending on the nature of accusation, the elder may or may not be allowed to continue in leadership and fellowship. In some cases, elders may return and resume ministry after some time.

# Laying on of hands

<sup>22</sup> Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

- No one should be ordained hastily
- God's calling for ministry should be confirmed prayerfully based on evidence gathered over time.
- Purity (of thoughts, actions) important among those called to ministry.





# Of Wine

**What is the recommended daily dosage for wine?**

## Of wine

<sup>23</sup> Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.

In those days, wine was probably healthier than unfiltered water.

Timothy could benefit from wine for his health.

Paul encouraging him to take care of his own physical health first, despite Timothy's reservations against drinking wine.

Paul recommends the use of wine as medicine.

## How much wine?

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Emphasis on 'little wine' indicating that it should be in moderation.

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While there are proven benefits to moderate wine consumption, today we have other alternatives to boost our health (without drinking wine)

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What's Bethany House of Worship recommendation on daily dosage of wine?

How much  
wine?

**ZERO!**

At Bethany, we recommend abstaining from wine

**Every addict started with a sip of wine!**

Potential spiritual losses from drinking wine will likely outweigh the health benefits.

**Why risk our spiritual health?**

“Abstain from all appearances of Evil” I Thessalonians 5:22

## Warning on Wine consumption from Proverbs 23

<sup>29</sup> Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?

<sup>30</sup> They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

<sup>31</sup> Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.

<sup>32</sup> **At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.**

<sup>33</sup> Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

<sup>34</sup> Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.

<sup>35</sup> They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.

Christ offers forgiveness & restoration to alcohol addicts. Church must restore addicts rather than judging and condemning them.

## Timing of Judgement

<sup>24</sup> Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after.

<sup>25</sup> Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid.

# Timing of Judgement

Despite our best efforts, mistakes may be made in the appointment of elders (we can avoid mistakes by fasting and praying to seek God's perfect will)

**God is Just** ... He will deal with the sins of elders (and other believers)

Evident sins – maybe judged by private chastisement and/or public church discipline

Hidden sins – will also be judged

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



# Timing of Judgement

**God is Just** ... He will reward all good works of elders (and other believers)

Evident Works

Hidden Works

**II Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

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