

“Be The Guardian”

“...guard what God has entrusted to you...”

1 Timothy 6:20a

“Be the Guardian of Your Relationships”

Chapter 5

God’s Family Rules

1 Timothy 5 & 6

Within the Church:

1. Respect your elders. (verses 1-2)
2. Respect younger people, too. (verses 1-2)
3. The church should care for needy, godly widows who have no family to care for them. (verses 3, 5, 9-10)
4. The family should care for family and extended family, and not burden the church. (verses 4-7, 16)
5. If you don’t provide for your family, you’re worse than a non-believer. (verse 8)
6. Young widows should remarry and not become busybodies or lazy. (verses 11-15)

For the Elders:

1. Pay your leaders a fair wage. (verses 17-18)
2. Only take seriously the accusations of two or three witnesses against a leader. (verse 19)
3. Correct leaders in front of everyone. (verse 20)
4. Show no favoritism. (verse 21)

Advice to Timothy:

1. Don’t be hasty to appoint people in leadership because time is the great revealer. (verses 22, 24-25)
2. Don’t participate in the sins of others—remain pure! (verse 22)
3. Drink some wine for your stomach. (verse 23)

A few words about slaves in the First Century:

- There were such things as slaves the way we think of them, but they were few and far between.

- The Old Testament gives lots of advice on how masters were to treat Hebrew and non-Hebrew slaves (see Leviticus 25).
- Among the First Century Jews, slaves were more like indentured servants; sold themselves into slavery in order to satisfy a debt, or they were
- extremely poor. In which case, indentured servitude was “stepping up” in society.
- There is modern day slavery and sex trafficking taking place - many scholars say there are more slaves now than in any other period of history.
- But when we read 1 Timothy 6, we should not think of slaves who are forced into slavery, but people who voluntarily entered servitude to pay a debt or to improve their lot.

Debtors:

1. If you owe someone something, pay it all back, and be respectful - you represent Christ! (1 Timothy 6.1-2)