

## Connection to 1 Timothy 5

In the fifth chapter of 1 Timothy, Paul goes into great detail on the obligations that Christians and churches have toward those in their care. As the church, we are to understand we have a responsibility to show real and practical love to the families within our congregation.

## Introduction/Opening

“All you need is love.”

This classic Beatles song was a call to embrace hopes for a world that was mired in hardship. In the midst of a Cold War, Vietnam, and upheaval, love seemed to provide the only way out of the chaos.

As Christians though, we need to think through the concept of love. Is our definition of love and what love looks like the same as popular culture? Many times, we would probably have to say no. Why? Well, love, popularly speaking, is mainly emotion. Yet as Christians, we are taught that love must be manifested in action. Paul painted a picture for Timothy of what love lived out looks like for the believer.

## Outline

1. Treating One Another Graciously (1 Tim. 5:1-2)
  - a) Respect to All  
Timothy was given careful instruction in how he was to care for the various age groups of people within the church. His treatment of fellow believers was to be a demonstration of love lived out.  
Everyone is to be treated well and with respect, no matter our background or past. When one of our fellow believers struggles, we engage them graciously.
  - b) A Spiritual Family  
A second element in these verses that is worth noting is how we relate to our fellow believers in the local church; they are family. Jesus used similar language to refer to those who are faithful (Mark 3:35). Since we are adopted as sons and daughters, we treat each other as family with “all purity.”
2. Caring for the Vulnerable (1 Tim. 5:3-7)  
Flowing from the need to treat everyone graciously, Paul moves to a discussion of the vulnerable, specifically widows. In this time, there was no social safety net like today.

Widows who didn't have a family were essentially helpless. In response to this, Paul called the church to make sure these widows were provided for. At the same time, Paul called widows to a lifestyle of devotion and faithfulness to Christ.

3. Provide for Your Family (1 Tim. 5:8)

Paul moved from the family of the church to the natural family and the responsibility that believers have in the home and among their families.

For the Christian, we have an obligation to take our faith home and live it out among those God has placed in our lives. To ignore our responsibilities to our families is a violation of that fifth commandment and makes one worse than an unbeliever (v. 8).

## Conclusion

Christian love must take place at home as well as in the church and in the world. Christian love is more than just an emotion; it involves a decision to demonstrate tangible acts and deeds. By treating everyone with respect and grace, caring for the least among us, and providing for one's family, we live out Christian love in a world that truly needs to see it.

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