

/We will now begin the seventh lecture on 1 Timothy. /The main text is 1 Timothy 5:1-18. /Chapter five answers the question: how can we lead the diverse group of believers? /There are diverse believers in the church.

/How are we to lead them? The Bible gives us the answer. /It is an important mission for us leaders today to properly lead groups of diverse believers.

/Read verse 1. /Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers,

/Church believers are like one family. /We are one family in God. /We serve one Father God. /There are seniors in the church, /as well as younger brothers and sisters.

/Verse 1 teaches us how to treat the elderly. /Verse 1 says, do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him. /There are many older believers in the church today. /It says that we are not to rebuke them but treat them like our fathers.

/To “rebuke” means to strike someone with words. /Rebuking the elderly will not change them. /The elderly have set viewpoints, which makes change difficult. /Therefore, we must not rebuke them, but respect them by treating them like our fathers.

/It also teaches to treat younger men as brothers. /We have one Father and have become brothers. /Today, there are different believers in the church. /Christ is the head of the church, and the believers are the body. /Brothers must help one another and cooperate for one purpose.

/Verse 2 says, /older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

/Timothy was a young minister. /We must have clean relationships with those of the opposite gender in the church. /It is easy for ministers to think of sisters as women. /Leaders in the church must especially be clean regarding relationships with those of the opposite gender.

/To maintain absolute purity, /we must always pray before God. /1 Corinthians 6:18 says to flee from sexual immorality. /Joseph fled when he was seduced and was able to overcome the temptation.

/Today the devil attempts to destroy believers through such temptations. /There are many in the church who have fallen to such temptations regarding the opposite gender. /We must reject such temptations and keep the chastity of our faith.

/The devil uses the leaders’ weaknesses to make them fall. /We can teach younger sisters in the church, but must be clean and careful that there are no instances of misunderstandings. /Everyone has weaknesses. /The leaders in the church especially /must be careful with relationships regarding the opposite gender.

/There are many who quit doing God's work because they have fallen through problems regarding the opposite gender. /We must learn to fear God, /and must keep ourselves pure before God.

/Verses 3-16 teach us the attitude we must have towards young widows. /Today in the church there are the elderly, /the young, /and the widows. /The orphans, widows, and wanderers are the three frail groups of people in the church. /How can we help these fragile believers in the church?

/Verse 3 says, /Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need.

/It says to respect the widows who are really in need. /Today the church must take care of the widows who are in need. /Widows can sometimes take advantage of the church. /Therefore, the church must have standards and rules regarding widows, and must take care of them. /What kind of widows then should the church look after?

/Verse 9. /No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband,

/First, a widow in need is one who is over the age of sixty. /To be over sixty means that /she is not capable of making a living on her own, /and cannot find work. /It means that she has become weak and cannot make a living on her own.

/The church must help these widows by putting them on the list of widows in the church. /Second, a widow in need is /one who has been faithful to her husband. /This means that she was /a good example in her home /and honored and served her husband until she became a widow.

/She has kept her purity, and has been a good example in many ways. /Verse 10 also speaks of widows in need.

/Verse 10. /and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

/It says to put widows on the list who is well known for her good deeds. /What are good deeds? /This refers to the woman who properly brought up her children without her husband. /This refers to those who did their best as mothers.

/Those who did good deeds refer to those who showed hospitality to wanderers. /There were many at the time who became wanderers to preach the gospel. /Wanderers are also those who are frail in the church. /The widows who showed hospitality to wanderers are to be put on the list of widows.

/Those who did good deeds also refer to those who washed the feet of believers. /This

refers to those who served with dedication in the church. /These widows show their good deeds in the church.

/The widows must serve the church, /and serve without complaining, /and be a good example towards others. /Those who did good deeds also refer to those who helped others who were in trouble.

/This refers to those who helped those who suffered and faced difficulties for the gospel. /Take a look at the widow at Zarephath. /How respectful was she of Elijah? /She served the servant of God and received many blessings from God. /Those who did good deeds also refer to those who devoted themselves to all kinds of good deeds.

/God is at the center of her heart, /and she devotes herself to God and to the church. /We must look to see if there are people with good deeds in the church. /It teaches us that we are to put the names of those who have good fruit on the list, and take good care of them. /Fourth, what are the widows in need like?

/Verse 5. /The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help.

/Those whom we must help are those who put their hope in God and continue night and day to pray. /Those who lived their lives with faith, and do not keep their hope in the world, are to be considered widows who are really in need.

/They are those who do not keep their hope in the world, /and keep their hope in God. /They live by faith alone. /Who was a widow who had good faith? /The prophetess Anna in Luke 2:36.

/She lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then became a widow. /She lived a thorough life of faith. /She did not leave God's temple /but prayed through the night /and through the day.

/She did not depend on the world but depended on God. /She lived with sincere faith. /She prayed in the temple /and received God's amazing grace of meeting Jesus.

/Today, the widows in need are those who keep their hope in God and live with faith. /She does not depend on the world. /These widows are to be put on the list and be taken care of.

/Fifth, the widow in need is /she who does not have family to take care of her. /It is she who lives alone but has no one to help her. /These widows must be put on the church list /and the church must take care of them. /However, the primary financial responsibilities of the widow belong to her family.

/Read verse 4. /But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their

parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.

/Let us say that a widow has children and grandchildren. /It says that the children and grandchildren are to practice filial piety first to their mother. /It is God's command that children show filial affections and duties towards their parents. /It is God's command that one honor his or her parents.

/The Ten Commandments tell us to honor our parents. /God is pleased when we show filial piety to our parents. /It is also the right thing to do before people and before God. /Jesus showed an example of filial piety.

/Ephesians 6:3 says, /that you may enjoy long life on the earth if you honor your father and mother. /Children must properly honor their parents so that they may receive God's grace and blessings. /If Christians do not honor their parents, they are considered more wicked than unbelievers.

/Verse 8. /If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

/It says, if anyone does not provide for his family, he has denied his faith. /When we believers say that we believe in God, /it means to serve God above, /and honor our parents on earth.

/If we do not provide for our parents, /this means that we have fallen in our faith. /Faith today means /that one behaves properly to God, /and also treats people properly. /It also means that one treats all of creation properly.

/Today the Bible teaches us to honor our father and mother. /It also says that those who do not provide for his family are worse than unbelievers. /Those who believe in Jesus, yet do not honor their parents /are more wicked than unbelievers.

/Children of faith must not only serve God well, but honor their parents. /We must first serve our parents well /and not burden the church.

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

/If we have relatives who are widows, /we must help her /and try not to let the church be burdened. /People abuse God's Word and attempt to use it for their advantage.

/Therefore, the primary responsibility of widows belongs to her children. /They must try not to burden the church. /The church must help those who are truly in need. /It says to teach these important lessons to members in the church.

/Read verse 7. /Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to

blame.

/It says, "Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame." /The children of the widows in need must first honor her. /However, if there is no one who can help her, the church must help her.

/Through these actions, we must make sure that there is nothing we will be rebuked of by God. /There must always be wisdom of discernment in the church. /The church must help widows but do so correctly so that they would not be rebuked by God.

/We will be reproached if we do not help those in need, /and we will also be reproached if we help everyone without any rules. /We must always properly help others before God for God to be pleased with us. /However, it says to refuse younger widows.

/Verse 11. /As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry.

/It says to refuse younger widows. /God said to not put younger widows on the church list. /Why did God tell us to refuse younger widows? /Younger widows have vitality. /They are capable of making efforts in making a living.

/Whoever is capable of working should work hard for food. /There are those who are clearly capable of working but attempt to receive help from others. /Therefore, because younger widows are capable of working, they are not to be put on the list.

/What is the second reason for why we need to refuse younger widows? /It is easy for a young widow to make a pledge before God and then get married. /She makes the vow, "I will live for God." /Then one day, /when a wealthy man /or a famous man comes along, /it will be easy for her to ignore her promise with God and get married.

/What is the third reason for why we need to refuse younger widows? /It is because it is easy for them to be tempted by sensual desires and turn away from their positions in the church. /It is easier to chase after sensual desires and abandon positions in the church /than to do the work of God.

/Fourth, /read verse 12. /Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge.

/Younger widows are not to be put on the list because they broke their first pledge. /They first promise God. /"I will devote my life to the Lord and obey." /Yet, they are overcome by their sensual desires and break their promise.

/What does God do to those who break such promises? /God said that he would surely judge them.

/Next, what is the fifth reason for why we need to refuse younger widows? /Read verse

13. /Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to.

/When we help younger widows, they become more and more lazy. /They do not work faithfully. /They live in idleness with the help they receive from the church.

/Sixth, it is easy for them to become gossips. /It says they became “gossips.” /They go from house to house insulting the works of God, /and speak things they should not say.

/These people will bring damage to the church and will not have a good influence on the church, and therefore, must be refused. /Then what does the Bible say that widows are to do?

/Read verse 14. /So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander.

/It encourages younger widows to marry and have a normal domestic life. /It is not a sin for a widow to get remarried. /Today, she can have a new start in faith.

/It teaches that she can marry, have children, manage her home, /and be faithful to her family. /Why does it say that widows are to marry and have a domestic life? /It is easy for younger widows to fall to the temptations of the devil.

/Here it says, “give the enemy no opportunity for slander.” /How great is the number of young widows who say they will live for God /but are exploited by the devil? /It is easy for young widows to be prodigal /and fall to pleasures and to hedonism.

/Therefore, it tells the young widow to get married and have a family. /Young widows may misbehave /and bring shame to the church, /and brings the church under attack. /There are also many young widows who fall to the devil.

/Thus, the God of order lays out rules regarding young widows. /Next, in verses 17-18 it says to /honor those who work in the church.

/Verse 17. /The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

/There are two types of elders in the church. /There are elders who direct the affairs of the church, and there are elders who teach. /The elders who direct the affairs of the church do not teach, but take care of administrative businesses in the church. /Then there are elders who teach in the church.

/Those who teach in the church refer to pastors. /Today, pastors have the rights of the podium and the rights to teach, /and pastors have the rights to hire people. /Pastors also have the rights in making the final decisions in church finances.

/No expenses are to be made in the church without the pastor's decisions. /Today in the business world, no expenses can be made without the presidents' decisions. /In verse 17, it says to honor in double the elders who properly direct the church.

/It says to especially honor those whose work is preaching and teaching. /Today in the church, we must honor pastors who preach the Word of God. /What kind of attitudes must we have towards pastors who preach God's Word.

/First, we must honor them in double. /This is because they are servants who have been chosen by God. /God speaks to his people through these servants. /God's servants are God's organization of grace.

/It is difficult to receive grace in the church if believers do not respect God's servants. /Second, we must obey pastors. /God is the God of order. /There is order in the church when God's servants properly lead the church, /and it is through God's grace that the church can grow.

/Third, we must cover up pastors' mistakes and flaws. /We all know Noah. /Noah came out of the ark and planted a vineyard. /Harvest went well that year. /Noah drank too much wine and became drunk, and laid uncovered in his tent.

/Noah made a huge mistake. /Then, Ham, one of Noah's three sons, exposed his father's mistake. /However, Shem and Japheth walked in backward and covered up their father's mistake. /What was the result of this?

/Ham was cursed and became slaves to his brothers, Shem and Japheth. /Shem and Japheth received God's blessings. /Shem was blessed with faith, /and it was through Shem's descendants that Jesus came. /Japheth was blessed economically.

/Today in the church, we must cover up mistakes of God's servants. /Today, when we see flaws of God's servants, we must pray more to God, /and cover up their flaws. /Judgment is in God's hands.

/Then why must we cover up the flaws of God's servants? /God uses his servants for his work of salvation. /If the flaws of God's servants were to be seen, /there would not be a good influence on people /when pastors preach the gospel.

/Fourth, we must not slander God's servants. /It goes without saying that we are to respect God's servants. /Even if God's servants happen to do wrong, we must not slander them /but pray for them with faith that God will judge the good and evil.

/Who received God's judgment for slandering God's servant? /Aaron and Miriam slandered Moses. /Miriam slandered Moses, then was punished with leprosy.

/They did not know that God judges his servants. /Miriam was punished for slandering

Moses for marrying a Cushite woman.

/Fifth, regarding God's servants, /when we hear the preaching of God's servants, /we must accept the preaching as God's words, not as man's. /God is giving me the words that I need to hear through his servant!

/Sometimes, God scolds and teaches believers through the lips of his servants. /Sixth, we must cooperate with God's servants on all terms. /We must not object to or attack God's servants in ministry.

/How can we be cooperative? /We must cooperate with God's servants in our hearts, /and we must always pray for them. /I recently made a prayer team at my church that is devoted to prayer. /The members pray for the pastor for thirty minutes before the beginning of service.

/Believers who pray for God's servants are excellent workers. /How else can we help God's servants? /We must devote ourselves, serve, and be cooperative. /Believers must help God's servants so that they may focus on preaching and praying.

/We must also help God's servants with materials. /We must think about ways in which we can help pastors with materials, and whether or not it will help in God's works. /Those who served God's servants in the Bible all received blessings.

/The widow of Zarephath served Elijah and was blessed. /This was during the time of the three and a half years famine. /Elijah went to the house of the widow of Zarephath. /Elijah said, "Make a small cake of bread for me."

/There was a handful of flour in her jar, /and the widow planned to make one last meal with it and die. /However, she served Elijah through her faith. /Then God blessed the home of the widow of Zarephath.

/God blessed her so that the jar of flour would not be used up and the jug of oil would not run up. /We will receive blessings when we serve God's servants. /Next, take a look at the woman at Shunem.

/She served Elisha and as a result, God gave her a son that her household needed. /Today in the New Testament period, /anyone who gives a cup of water in the name of a prophet will not lose his reward.

/When believers cooperate with God's servants, they will receive blessings both spiritually and physically. /In verse 18, it tells believers to take responsibility regarding materials of God's servants.

/Verse 18. /For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."



/It says, "For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain."  
/If an ox does not eat because it has a muzzle over its mouth while it is working, it cannot work. /What does this teach us today?

/This means that it is right for ministers in the church to receive honorarium. /The church must help servants who teach God's Word, with materialistic goods. /This is because pastors need to focus on God's work.

/Because pastors focus wholly on God's work, we must help pastors with materials so that they do not have to worry about things of the world. /Both the Old and New Testaments teach us to give honorariums to pastors in the church.

/We must serve God's servants plentifully without shortage. /Pastors must of course first transcend materials. /God's leaders must not covet material goods.

/Here we will conclude the seventh lecture on 1 Timothy. /Thank you.