

DISCUSSION NOTES

NOVEMBER 17, 2019

Start by praying and asking for God's help as you seek to grow as authentic followers of Jesus.

GETTING STARTED

1. Our world is experiencing an increasing inability to relate with basic respect and human kindness toward others. What factors do you think are contributing to this problem in our day?

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

2. Read 1 Timothy 5:1-2. How would you describe the key principle being taught?

How does non-verbal communication shape the way we feel about others? What types of non-verbal cues do we need to be aware of in our interactions with others?

3. Read 1 Timothy 5:3-16 about the care of widows and consider the following.

- What command is given to children and grandchildren in caring for elderly parents? Which of the ten commandments is related to this? What emphasis does Paul give to reinforce the importance?

- Why do you think it is helpful to set some boundaries on how the church operates in the situations described?

4. Read 1 Timothy 5:17-25 and consider what it teaches about elders. What do you think it is important for spiritual leaders to be both honored (vs. 17-18) and accountable (vs. 19-21)?

How do these principles give weight to the importance of being careful in selecting elders (vs. 22)?

5. Verse 18 gives two quotations from the Bible. Where are these specific quotations found in the Bible? What can we discern about Paul's view of Scripture from this verse?

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What do we learn from this text about how we are to view Scripture?

LIVING IT OUT

6. When you consider the good deeds which describe the healthy widow (in verse 10), what does this say about the opportunities each person has to make a real contribution in a church family?
7. Most people have ideas about how they will spend their later years in life (travel, retirement, spoiling grandkids, etc). How might Paul's description here for widows of sixty-plus years shape our view of the later years and our incredible value to the church?
8. Why is it important to have leadership, structures, and plans in a church as well as relational warmth and connection of a family? Why are both necessary?
9. What kind of joy and goodness are experienced when a church functions wonderfully as a healthy family (see verses 1-2)? Have you experienced this personally? Why or why not?
10. In our world, what kind of testimony will our church have in our city if they see that we outdo one another in showing honor, offer grace to others, and sacrificial care to those in need?
11. What is one thing from this study that you want to remember and apply to your own life this week?