

W O M E N ' S B I B L E S T U D Y

# Equipped

F O R T H E F I G H T

## Treating Others with Love

**1 Timothy 5:1-16**

Lesson 7

This week's passage contains wonderful lessons for all in the body of Christ regarding how to treat those in our church. Since Timothy was a young pastor who might be tempted to ignore the older men and women of his congregation, Paul carefully lays out instructions here in chapter five. As Christians, we are the family of God and family members ought to lovingly look out for each other. We are to care for the older members in the church like our own mother or father, and the younger members like brothers and sisters.

A specific group of people that God's Word commands us to care for are those who have been widowed. All too often, these are the very ones who can fall into the shadows and be easily forgotten. So here in our verses this week, Paul addresses how we are to take care of the widows in our fellowship. Long before Social Security, life insurance, or any type of public assistance ever existed, the church realized it had a responsibility to care for those who financially could not care for themselves. The church is called to care for the elderly widow who is truly left alone without a husband, grown children, grandchildren, or other relatives to support her.

Treating others with love is a powerful example of how the church can be equipped for the fight of faith. This genuine, godly love begins with the family of God and is then on display for the world to witness Jesus Christ firsthand. Let's pray that as we study this epistle, the lessons we are learning will find their way into our hearts and homes and make an impact on those around us.

**Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer**

**This Week's Scripture: 1 Timothy 5:1-16**

*"Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, <sup>2</sup>older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity. <sup>3</sup>Honor widows who are really widows. <sup>4</sup>But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God. <sup>5</sup>Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. <sup>6</sup>But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives. <sup>7</sup>And these things command, that they may be blameless. <sup>8</sup>But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. <sup>9</sup>Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man, <sup>10</sup>well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work. <sup>11</sup>But refuse the younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry, <sup>12</sup>having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith. <sup>13</sup>And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not. <sup>14</sup>Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully. <sup>15</sup>For some have already turned aside after Satan. <sup>16</sup>If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows." NKJV*

**This Week's Memory Verse:**

***"Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity."***

**1 Timothy 5:1-2**

**Exhort:** beseech, admonish, to urge one to pursue some course of conduct.

1. Put into your own words how Paul says you should speak when you must correct another person (v. 1-2). \_\_\_\_\_

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a. How can we apply James 3:13-18 to Paul's directions and what must we do in order to maintain godly wisdom? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Group Discussion**

In the original language, the word "purity" means freedom from outside influences, even your own. Why do you think we must speak with purity? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Now that we have been shown how to "exhort" people, Paul turns his attention to those who may need a little exhorting. Verse 3 of this week's scripture speaks about widows in particular and how they should be treated. What guidelines does Paul give us? Use a NLT translation if available. \_\_\_\_\_

a. How does verse 5 describe a true widow? \_\_\_\_\_

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b. How does verse 6 describe an ungodly widow? \_\_\_\_\_

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*"The proof of spiritual maturity is not how pure you are but awareness of your impurity.  
That very awareness opens the door to grace."  
– Philip Yancey*

3. What strong warning is given in verse 8? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- a. In light of the exhortation about widows, why do you think this verse is important?  
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4. Verses 9-16 list the qualifications of a widow. Read these verses and note the positive and negative attributes of some widows. \_\_\_\_\_  
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- a. How do these proverbs reinforce what is stated in these verses?
- Proverbs 13:4: \_\_\_\_\_  
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  - Proverbs 20:19: \_\_\_\_\_  
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  - Proverbs 14:1: \_\_\_\_\_  
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- b. Why do you think it was necessary to expose ungodly widows and how can we apply this to our society today? \_\_\_\_\_  
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*“We want gain without pain; we want the resurrection without going through the grave; we want life without experiencing death; we want a crown without going by way of the Cross. But in God's economy, the way up is down.”*

– Nancy Leigh DeMoss



