

All in the Family  
(1 Timothy 5:1-16)

I. Introduction

- A. Some in the church in Ephesus had lapsed back into ungodly living.
- B. Others had abandoned their faith.
  - 1. Some women had abandoned their proper role & were trying to take authority over the men in the church.
  - 2. Some men who pressed for a leadership role were unqualified.
  - 3. Others were being seduced by false doctrines.
  - 4. Some women, both young, and some widows, were living impure lives.
- C. How are we to deal with these situations in order to keep the body pure, and yet united in a spirit of love and togetherness??

II. Esteem

- A. Deal with error in an older man as if he were your father.
- B. The key word in dealing with young men is the word "brothers."
- C. Older women are to be respected as our mothers.
- D. Younger women are to be regarded as sisters and treated accordingly.
- E. It is essential to the spiritual health of the church that each group be treated with the respect they deserve.

III. Endow

- A. A test of any church is how it deals with those in true need.
- B. We are to care for the widows...if they need our help.
- C. Paul says, "Be good stewards of God's resources, and don't waste them on those who dishonor God."

IV. Exempt

- A. For older widows, the term "taken into the number" refers to being placed into the group called upon to minister to others.
  - 1. These are widows who have established a record of serving others.
  - 2. They are more interested in serving as in being served.
- B. For younger widows, Paul says that because of their God-given desires for marriage and family, they need to focus on those things which their youth demands and not feel guilty.
- C. Then Paul says that the church ought to aid widows only if there is no other source, because if the church has to care for those who don't need it, it may not be able to adequately care for those who do.

V. Conclusion

- A. Some of the huge redwood trees of California are 300 feet high and over 2,500 years old.
- B. They have a very shallow root system.
- C. All the roots intertwine, and that is from where they derive their strength.
  - 1. They are inextricably locked together.
  - 2. When the storms come, the winds blow, and the lightning flashes, the redwoods still stand.
  - 3. Each tree is important to all the other trees in the grove.
- D. We are all part of the family of God...
  - 1. Roots intertwined like the Giant Redwoods...
    - a. Respecting each other...
    - b. Loving each other...
    - c. Serving each other...
    - d. Strengthening each other...
  - 2. Faithfully serving the Lord together.