

### Intro:

In 1 Timothy 5:1-16, Paul lays down instruction for how the church should care for one another. While the focus is on widows, the principles of God's church is to love one another so that the gospel is more clearly displayed go far beyond just caring for widows.

### Questions:

**1. In vv 1-2, Paul speaks about how generations and genders are to relate to one another in the church. Younger people are to honor older people. Men are to esteem women.**

–Discuss ways that younger Christians in a church can honor older Christians?

–Discuss ways older Christians can encourage younger Christians?

–Discuss practical ways men in a congregation can create a safe place in the church where women are valued and respected.

**2. In vv3-8, Paul instructs Timothy to help those widows who truly need help. For those with family, Paul is careful to put the responsibility on the family to help. At times, churches can either be too indiscriminate in helping those in need, while at other times perhaps they are too conservative and not generous enough. Paul however advocates that the church exercise discernment and wisdom in caring for widows who are truly widows.**

–Discuss the consequences of a church unwisely usurping the role of the family in caring for those in need. What is the downside to the church being indiscriminate in helping people?

–On the other side, discuss the consequences of a church being too conservative in caring for those in need? What is the downside to the church lacking in mercy for those in need?

**3. In vv9-10, Paul speaks about how the widows who are receiving help were expected to also minister to the needs of the church. Embedded in this passage is a great truth—that those who receive gifts also have the great responsibility and joy to give of their own gifting for the sake of the body.**

–Before Christ, all of us are completely needy and helpless. Yet, he saves us so that through us he can bless others. Discuss the importance of how each Christian, no matter their station in life, is expected to use their gifts for the edification of the body (see 1 Peter 4:10-11).