

## **Ministering to the Family of God**

### **Intro:**

**Key word:** "honor" (5:3, 17, 6:1)

**Key concept:** "family" (5:1-16)

**Main point:** All ministry is to be carried out in the context of family, being careful not to preempt the natural family, so that the church may fulfill its central mission.

### **1 – Correct One Another in the Context of Family (vv 1-2)**

### **2 – Care for Those Who Lack the Help of Family (vv 3-16)**

- Since the time of Moses God was known as the defender of the fatherless, sojourner and widow (Deu 10:18; 24:17).
- "Justice" among God's people included the right treatment of widows (Isa 1:17)
- The NT church continued this emphasis (Acts 6:1; Jam 1:27)

Paul's main concern is that the Ephesian church take care of widows who are truly in need.

#### Criteria for the enrollment of widows

A. Destitute widows:

B. Godly widows:

C. Older widows:

### **Questions for discussion and reflection:**

- Read Acts 6:1–7. What strains had the relief work been putting on the apostles' ministry and how was this addressed? What application can we draw from this?
- What responsibility do we have towards Christians who are in need? (See Acts 11:27–30; James 2:14–17; Matt. 25:31–46)
- How much social action can we get involved in without becoming distracted from the task of spreading the good news? How do the guidelines given in this passage help us?