

## **“Caring for Aging Parents”**

### **1 Timothy 5:1-16**

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5:1 Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

3 Honor widows who are truly widows. 4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. 5 She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, 6 but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. 7 Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. 8 But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

9 Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, 10 and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work. 11 But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry 12 and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith. 13 Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not. 14 So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. 15 For some have already strayed after Satan. 16 If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.

### **Modern Complexities to an Ancient Command**

1. government safety nets
2. mobile society
3. increasing life-expectancy
4. our culture’s delusion that we can live forever

## **What was going on in Ephesus?**

### **Four reasons why Christians Care for Aging Parents:**

#### **Taking care of aging parents:**

1. is a practical way to say “thank you.”
2. pleases God.
3. proclaims the gospel.
4. frees the church for ministry.

### **How should Christians care for aging parents?**

#### **Christians should care for aging parents:**

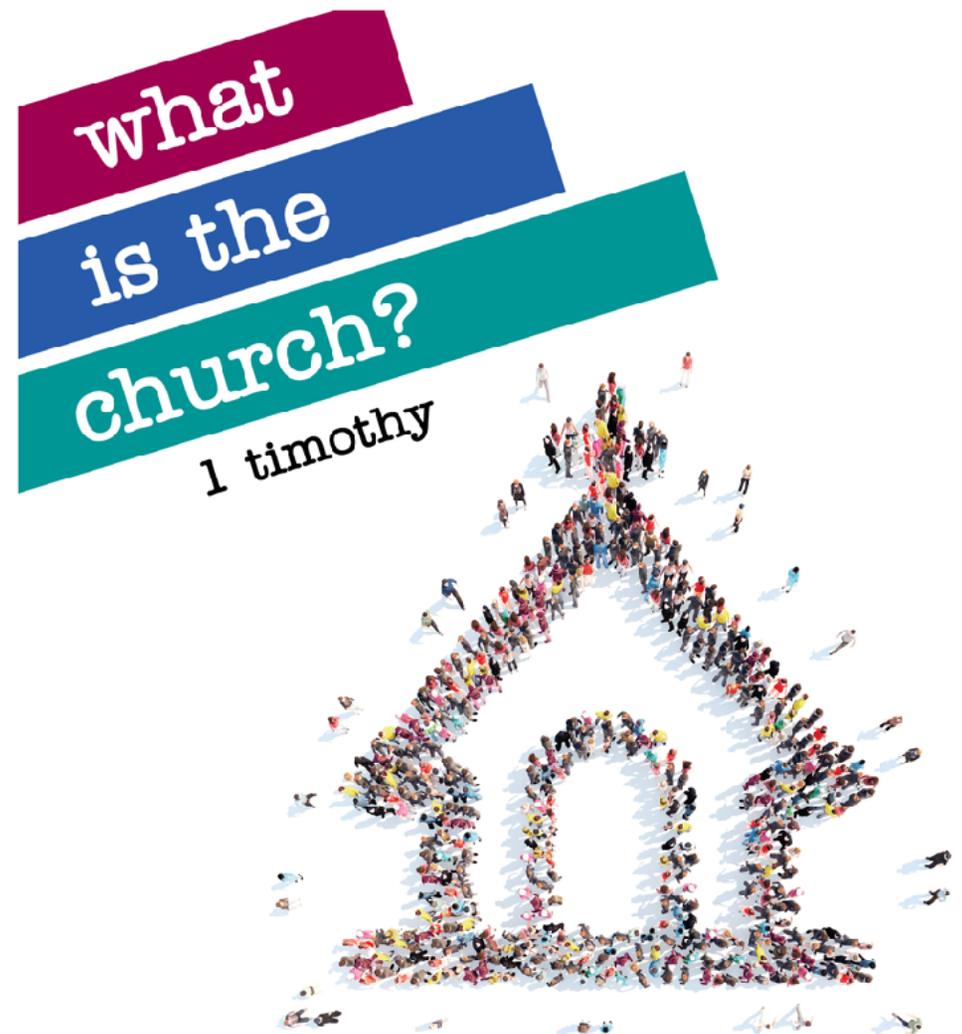
1. by maintaining their dignity.
2. while remembering their one-flesh covenant.
3. with an awareness of how God has gifted them.

## Life Group or Family Discussion Questions:

1. This Sunday is Mother's Day. Share a favorite memory of your mom.
2. We spent a lot of time this Sunday talking about caring for aging parents. What was one thing that stuck out to you? How can you apply this sermon? Share your own family context and how this passage speaks into your situation.
3. **Read James 1:26-27.** What is the importance of taking care of widows for Christians? What are some ways that you can do this? That our church can do this?
4. **Read Psalm 68:5; 146:9.** How does God relate to the widow? Why is this so surprising compared to ancient gods? What does this reveal to us about God? How does that influence our approach to widows?
5. **Read Acts 6:1-6.** What was going on in the early church? How did the early church meet the need facing them? What does this show us about the priorities of the early church? What can we learn from them?
6. **Read Mark 7:9-13.** What practice does Jesus address in this passage? What does that tell us about our responsibility toward our parents? Can you think of modern-day parallels to what the Pharisees were encouraging?
7. **Read Mark 8:34-36.** How do we balance Paul's words here about enjoying God's creation with Jesus's words in Mark?
8. **Read 1 Timothy 5:8.** Why is Paul so harsh in this passage? What can we learn from this warning?

**We honor God when we honor aging parents.**

May 21 - Last Sunday of CW Classes • May 28 - Service at 9:30 a.m.



# Caring for Aging Parents

May 14, 2017

**Sundays**

9:30 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.

CW Classes Hour  
Worship Service

