

LESSON 6

RESPECT IN RELATIONSHIPS

1 TIMOTHY 5:1—6:2



1 Describe a time when someone from church did not treat you very well. How did you feel?

2 Think of times in your life when someone treated you respectfully. What was done that made you feel respected?



Read 1 Timothy 5:1—6:2 and the following notes:

☐ 5:2 ☐ 5:3–5 ☐ 5:8 ☐ 5:19–21 ☐ 5:21 ☐ 6:1, 2

3 Why do we need the same advice that Paul gave Timothy about how to treat various groups of people?

4 What were the apparent abuses and problems in the way the church dealt with widows?

5 Why would a Christian slave be tempted to disrespect his or her Christian master?

Timothy was to treat the people in church with the same level of respect as he would his own family. No matter what our age or place in life, we should treat others in the church as we would fathers, brothers, mothers, or sisters. But often we treat a waitress or service attendant more courteously than we do our spouse. And we often treat casual acquaintances with more decency than our own brothers and sisters. Similarly, we often treat our brothers and sisters in Christ as though they were less than members of God's family. We need wisdom in our relationships. Older and younger people need to be treated differently, yet all should be treated with dignity. We do this by showing respect without partiality. We should make an effort to treat everybody in the church with respect. After all, these people will be with us for eternity.



6 Paul mentioned the older and younger men, the older and younger women, widows, elders, and slaves. Describe the different groups of people in your church.

7 How do some of these groups (the old, the young, the poor) become invisible to other groups in the church?

8 What are some of the benefits of having different age groups in the body of Christ?



9 How can we show our respect for elders in the congregation without being phony or superficial?

10 How do we unintentionally show favoritism in the church?

11 What should you do to show your employer full respect? How might lack of respect for your employer hinder your testimony or give Christians a bad name?

12 What is especially difficult about attending the same church as someone from your place of work?

13 With which group in church do you feel most comfortable? With which group do you relate the best?

14 With which groups in the church do you feel uncomfortable or avoid contact?

15 When do you have problems showing respect to others in the body of Christ? How do you play favorites?

16 Evaluate your relationships in church. What can you do to improve how you relate to certain groups of people? What can you do to strengthen intergenerational ties? What can you do to become more aware of the less visible people?



A Why is it important for a younger person not to speak harshly to an older person?

B What does it mean for men to treat younger women with purity?

C What should a church do about a parent who is not being taken care of by his or her children? When is it time for the church to step in?

D In what way does taking care of parents as they age repay them?

E What was difficult about the plight of a widow at the time of this letter? Why did these widows have to qualify for financial help? How did the younger widows become “guilty of breaking their previous pledge” (5:12)? Why was this a problem?

F What are some opportunities for helping those in our own families who are in need? How much time will it take? What are the complications? How much personal and financial sacrifice does this mandate?

G Why should pastors be paid for their efforts?

H What would make people accuse elders of wrongdoing?

I Why is it so difficult for us to rebuke publicly those who sin today? How could this be carried out inappropriately? What was the intention of this directive?

J Why do good deeds stand out so much? What good have you done that has not stood out? What do you do that nobody else seems to notice?

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