

# Real Love In The Church

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, June 12, 2016; Steve Thiel

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**Christians are absolutely responsible to care for their own earthly families. In the family of God, they should treat one another with love and respect. This includes wise and compassionate support and care of those who are truly in need.**

## **I. Love Others Like Family – Read 1 Timothy 5:1-2**

- A. 1 Timothy 4:15 describes the church as “*the household of God*”. How do the first two verses of chapter 5 help you evaluate what your relationships should look like in the church?
- B. What are some things that you can do to cultivate these kinds of relationships?
- C. How do you need to grow in treating members of the church family like parents and siblings?

## **II. Love Those Without Family – Read 1 Timothy 5:3-16**

- A. According to verses 3-8, what is the responsibility of believers to their earthly families?
- B. Looking specifically at verses 5-6, how do we identify those who are truly widows?
- C. What does it mean for a woman to be “*dead even while she lives*” (v.5)? Can you think of other passages in the bible that support your understanding and explanation?
- D. According to verses 9-16, how does Paul describe those who are truly widows? How does that compare with the description of younger widows who are to be refused (vv.11-13)?
- E. How does Paul tell Timothy to handle the two different groups of younger widows (vv.11-15)?

## **III. Love Those In Our Family – Application**

- A. As you think through this section, how would you summarize the responsibility of the church?
- B. Practically speaking, what does it look like for us as a church to love those who are truly in need?
- C. For you personally, how do you need to grow in loving, providing, and caring for your own earthly family? How would you like to see yourself grow in loving the family of God?