

Trustworthy Sayings

8 – Family Matters

1 Timothy 5

Command

- Urge and exhort fittingly
 - How you speak to those around you often determines if you can speak to them the next time (just because you have the right to say something doesn't mean you have the right to be heard)
 - Positional authority carries less weight than relational authority, especially if you're younger

Principle

- The church should help care for those who have no one to care for them (v.3, 16)
 - Paul has to apply this principle in Ephesus because of what was going on
 - Temptation: younger widows was to run to marriage (v.11-12)
 - No independence, income, or social security net – relied on marriage
 - *Anyone* who would take care of a widow could be deemed marriage material
 - They would then take on the religion of their husband
 - Temptation: younger widows was idleness (v.13)
 - They weren't freeloading like the men (2 Thes 3), but gossiping
 - Paul's solution: get married, have kids, and take care of them (v.14)
 - This is not misogynistic or chauvinism – it is making sure they are cared for, in a Christian marriage, and (most of all) protective of the Gospel
- Taking care of family is holy work (v.4, 8)
 - Some are in the middle of it and it's hard – but it's holy work, pleasing in God's sight

Lesson

- Laborers deserve their wages (v.18)
 - In the church: elders can get paid for ministry (v.17)
- Be careful – they take fire because they're in leadership (v.19)
 - This is one of the wages they deserve
 - But if they're guilty, rebuke them (v.20-21)
- Be careful – don't lay hands on someone too hastily
 - Why be slow? Because some sin and some good take time to be seen (v.24-25)
 - Fruit takes time to develop on the tree

Questions for Discussion

1. What was your biggest fight with your parents growing up? Do you remember what was said? How did that impact your relationship going forward?
2. How would you describe the difference between positional authority and relational authority? Can you give examples of each? How have you seen each play out in your life (for good or bad)?
3. Why do you think Paul said caring for family is “good and pleasing in the sight of God” (v.4) and, by implication, an expression of faith in Him (v.8)? How is it worse than pagans when we don’t care for family? How does this picture the Gospel?
4. For those in leadership, what is one instance of when you have taken fire simply because you were in leadership? How did you respond? What would you have done differently?
5. What was the worst church fight you have ever been privy to? How was it resolved? How did the leadership act in the middle of it? How were the message of the Gospel and the witness of the church affected?