

Let the Church Be the Church

“The Church and Its Ministry”

I Timothy 5-6

Chapters 5-6 of I Timothy describe a number of ministries for various people in the church. It is instruction for the Pastor that further explains “how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church...” (I Timothy 3:15). But, the Pastor and the church are given specific assignments for ministry. Much ministry hinges on relationships!

The two chapters identify about seven groups to whom we owe ministry:

1. We have a ministry to OLDER and YOUNGER SAINTS (5:1-2)
2. We have a ministry to WIDOWS “INDEED” (5:3-16)
3. We have a ministry to CHURCH LEADERS (5:17-25)
4. We have a ministry to EMPLOYEES (6:1-2)
5. We have a ministry of identifying FALSE TEACHERS (6:3-5)
6. We have a ministry to the WEALTHY (6:6-19)
7. We have a ministry to the HIGHLY EDUCATED (6:20-21)

The message here deals primarily with the church’s ministry to WIDOWS and then the CHARGE Paul gives to Pastor Timothy.

- I. The church’s ministry to WIDOWS (5:3-16)
 - A. The CHILDREN’S responsibility (vv.4,8).
 1. The practice of piety (v.4a)
 2. The place of provision (v.4b)
 3. The pleasure of the Lord (v.4c)
 - B. The CHURCH’S responsibility (vv.3,9-10)
 1. Identifying “widows indeed.”
 2. The unique ministry of Deacons (cf. Acts 6:1)
- II. The church’s ministry from the PASTOR (6:11-16)
 - A. He is known by WHAT HE FLEES FROM (v.11a)
 - B. He is known by WHAT HE FOLLOWS AFTER (v.11b)
 - C. He is known by WHAT HE FIGHTS FOR (v.12)
 - D. He is known by WHAT HE IS FAITHFUL TO (v.14)

The Church Will Be the Church when it fulfills its ministry to individuals, leaders, servants “inside the Body” and its ministry to the lost and unengaged “outside the body.”