

“The Church Is a Multigenerational Family”

1 Timothy 5:1–16

“It is disgraceful that...the impious Galileans [Christians] support not only their own poor but ours as well.” (Julian the Apostate)

Main Point: The Church Is a Multigenerational Family and Should Act Like It

“If I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.” (1 Timothy 3:15)

“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:12–13)

“Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.” (Psalm 68:5)

“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.” (James 1:27)

Principle #1: The Church Should Care

Principle #2: The Church Should Encourage Christians to Care for Their Families

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” (Exodus 20:12; cf. Deuteronomy 5:16)

“When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, behold, your son!’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Behold, your mother!’ And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.” (John 19:26–27)

“But Ruth said, ‘Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.’” (Ruth 1:16–17)

Principle #3: The Church Should Care Wisely

“And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.” (Luke 22:36–38)

Principle #4: The Church Should Encourage Generational Godliness

Notes

Discuss

- What role do you have in implementing the encouragements of 1 Timothy 5:1–2 in our church family?
- Who are the biological family members that you are responsible for caring for, and how is this passage an encouragement to you to do that more faithfully?
- How can a church family care for its members in a wealthy society like the one that we live in?
- What does godliness look like for you at your age and gender, and how might it change over the course of your life?

Read

Ruth 1:1–18; Matthew 12:46–50; Mark 7:1–23; 10:28–31; Acts 6:1–7; Ephesians 6:1–3

Pray

- That God will give the gift of generational unity to our church family.
- That God will make you aware of the needs within our church family.
- That God will show you how you can care more faithfully for the members of your biological family.

Announcements

- Members' Meeting: March 13 at 5:00pm
- Exploring Membership (Sundays): March 27, April 3, 10, and 17 at 9:30–10:30am
- Exploring Membership (Saturdays): early-May