

Our society is breaking itself down into smaller and smaller units resulting in many more people living on their own facing isolation and loneliness. In what ways can the church be good news to those who are in great need?

Read 1 Timothy 5:1-16

1. In practical terms how does Paul want church members to relate to each other (v1-2)?
2. Who are we to honour (v3)? What are the qualifications for a widow to receive assistance? (v3, 5, 9, 10) Why do you think godliness is such an important issue?
3. Why do you think Paul uses such strong language in v8 concerning failure to assist a widow?
4. Why do you think that for many of us the instructions about biological families caring for their elderly (v4, 8, 16) strike an uncomfortable note? What should we seek to do about it?
5. In what ways could we care for people in real need within our own church family?

Read 1 Timothy 5:17-6:2

6. Who are we to honour (v17; 6:1)? Why (6:1)?
7. In what ways are we to honour the elders in our congregation? What do you think is meant by double honour? How is an elder like an ox and a worker?
8. Why should we be slow to rebuke an elder (v19-21)? If an elder persists in sin and needs to be rebuked, what principles should be followed (see also Matthew 18:15-17)?
9. Why should we be slow to appoint elders (v22-25)? What principles can we learn here that impact who we choose to lead ministries?
10. Why might it be tempting not to work hard for a non-Christian boss (6:1)? Or for a Christian boss (6:2)? What would be the effect of not working hard in both these situations? How can we encourage each other to be faithful in the workplace as Christians?
11. How can we enable the reputation of the gospel to be enhanced within our community?