

## **Dealing with the saints of different ages (1 Tim 5:1-16)**

### **I) The Divine Standard and the Human Life**

- a. In the church life we have the divine aspect as well the human aspect
  - 1) We must care not only for matters on the divine level
  - 2) We must also care for matters on the human level
- b. In 1Timothy 5:1-16 Paul tells Timothy how to deal with the saints of different ages

### **II) Living a Normal Human Life**

- a. We all need to learn to be human
  - 1) We should never think that if we reach God's standard, we no longer need to be human
    - a) Some believers have been influenced by the false teaching that Christians should be like angels, that it is no longer necessary for them to lead a normal human life
  - 2) If we would live Christ, we must learn to be human in a genuine way
    - a) Even when the Lord Jesus was on earth, He was very human (John 19:26 – 27, Luke 18:16)
- b. In verses 1-16 Paul instructed Timothy to contact the saints in a human way
  - 1) Timothy was not to assume an elevated position
  - 2) Timothy was charged to:
    - a) Behave as a brother to younger brothers and sisters
    - b) Behave as a son to mother and fathers
- c. Our contact with the saints must be in a proper atmosphere and with the right attitude and spirit

### **III) Exercising Wisdom**

- a. When dealing with saints of different ages, we need not only love, but also wisdom
  - 1) In our human family we do not speak in the same way to all the members of the family
  - 2) Do not love the saints in a foolish way. Instead, always exercise wisdom, realizing whom you are contacting

### **IV) In All Purity(v.2)**

- a. Every contact with the brothers and sisters in the church life must be pure in every way. We need to be pure in our motive and intention
  - 1) To be pure means to be single and clean
- b. In the contact between brother and sisters there is especially the need for all purity
  - 1) For this reason a brother and sister who are close to the same age should not talk privately in a closed room
  - 2) The Lord spoke to Nicodemus in a house alone at night, but he talked to the Samaritan women out in the open during the day(John 3:2; John 4:6)
- c. To have an impure motive means to seek gain for ourselves, to seek some kind of advantage or promotion

### **V) Doing Our Duty(v.13 – 16)**

- a. In the church life everyone must have certain duties to perform. No one should be idle or a busybody
- b. Realizing the need for all the saints to do their duty, Paul tells Timothy not to allow a widow to be enrolled who is under sixty years old (v.9)
  - 1) Paul then goes on to say how childbearing and house affairs are a rescue and safeguard to idle busybodies
  - 2) This is God's ordination to restrict and protect women since the fall(Gen 3:16)
- c. Paul's word in verse 14 is somewhat of a contrast to what he says in 1 Corinthians 7:8.
  - 1) The word in 1 Corinthians was Paul's wish in his earlier ministry
  - 2) In 5:14 we have his advice in his later ministry according to his experiences concerning young widows