

July 20 CGH

**1Ti 5:1-2 Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, (2) older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.**

In these chapters (5 and 6) Paul begins giving instructions to Timothy that can read like a “manual” for being a good pastor. Having discussed the qualifications of being a spiritual leader, now he moves on to the “how to do it” portion. In these verses, Paul instructs Timothy on relationships with older members of the body believers.

What situations might these verses be addressing?

Do you see yourself as “older” or “younger?”

How does that point of view affect your interaction with the world?

How does your point of view affect those in the “other” group?

How has your point of view changed over the years?

Kretzmann: “Although the tendency toward certain sins varies with the age, it remains true that transgressions of God’s holy will occur in every station of life, and that the number of years which a person has lived have little influence upon the activity of the evil nature, certain sins even having a tendency to become ruling sins in later life, if a Christian has not always battled against them with might and main. It becomes the duty of the faithful pastor, therefore, occasionally to administer reproofs from the Word of God.”

Where do we get our direction in these situations?

*2Ti 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

Text Discussion:

**Verse 1: Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers,**

What does this tell you about Timothy’s likely age?

Why do we not “rebuke” an older person?

How are we to approach the younger men?

*Exo 20:12 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.*

*Lev 19:32 “You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.*

*Mat 18:15-17 “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. (16) But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. (17) If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.*

**(2) older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.**

What is the significance of addressing older women as mothers?

Why the mention of purity?

Deuteronomy 5:16 “Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

To the position of fatherhood and motherhood God has given special distinction above all positions that are beneath it: He does not simply command us to love our parents, but to honor them. Regarding our brothers, sisters, and neighbors in general, He commands nothing more than that we love them [Matthew 22:39; 1 John 3:14]. In this way He separates and distinguishes father and mother from all other persons upon earth and places them at His side. [106] For it is a far higher thing to honor someone than to love someone, because honor includes not only love, but also modesty, humility, and submission to a majesty hidden in them. (Luther on the Fourth Commandment from the Large Catechism)

Deu 27:16 “Cursed be anyone who dishonors his father or his mother.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’