

First Timothy 5:1-16

Timothy is to make corrections and set an example, but Timothy is not to “rule the church” or “overlord” the believers. Instead, Paul gives him general council on how to interact with the various age groups and genders in 5:1-2:

1. Older men
2. Younger men
3. Older women
4. Younger women

This is then followed by three subgroups:

1. Widows (5:3-16)
2. Elders (5:17-22)
3. Slaves (6:1-3)

First Timothy 5:1 – “Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers,

4245 [e]	3361 [e]	1969 [e]	235 [e]	3870 [e]	5613 [e]	3962 [e]	3501 [e]	5613 [e]	80 [e]
Presbyterō	mē	epiplēxēs	alla	parakalei	hōs	patera	neōterous	hōs	adelphous
1 Πρεσβυτέρω μὴ ἐπιπλήξῃς , ἀλλὰ παρακάλει ὡς πατέρα ; νεωτέρους ὡς ἀδελφούς ;									
An elder	not	do rebuke	but	exhort [him]	as	a father	younger [men]	as	brothers
Adj-DMS-C	Adv	V-ASA-2S	Conj	V-PMA-2S	Adv	N-AMS	Adj-AMP-C	Adv	N-AMP

5:2 – “older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

4245 [e]	5613 [e]	3384 [e]	3501 [e]	5613 [e]	79 [e]	1722 [e]	3956 [e]	47 [e]
presbyteras	hōs	mēteras	neōteras	hōs	adelphas	en	pasē	hagneia
2 πρεσβυτέρας ὡς μητέρας ; νεωτέρας ὡς ἀδελφὰς , ἐν πάσῃ ἀγνεΐᾳ .								
elder [women]	as	mothers	[and] younger [women]	as	sisters	in	all	purity
Adj-AFP-C	Adv	N-AFP	Adj-AFP-C	Adv	N-AFP	Prep	Adj-DFS	N-DFS

Widows:

1. Old Testament:
 - a. Job 24:3 – “They drive away the donkey of the fatherless; they take the widow's ox for a pledge.”
 - b. Job 24:21 – “They wrong the barren, childless woman, and do no good to the widow.”
 - c. Job 29:13 – “The blessing of him who was about to perish came upon me, and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy.”
 - d. Psalm 94:6 – “They kill the widow and the sojourner, and murder the fatherless.”
 - e. Isaiah 10:2 – “Woe to those who decree iniquitous decrees, and the writers who keep writing oppression, to turn aside the needy from justice and to rob the poor of my people of their right, that widows may be their spoil, and that they may make the fatherless their prey!”
 - f. Isaiah 1:23 – “They do not bring justice to the fatherless, and the widow's cause does not come to them.”

- g. Jeremiah 7:6 – “For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another, if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm, then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever.”
- h. Jeremiah 49:11 – “Leave your fatherless children; I will keep them alive; and let your widows trust in me.”

2. New Testament:

- a. Luke 2:37 – Anna – “as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.”
- b. James 1:27 – “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.”

3. Jesus:

- a. Luke 7:11-17 – Jesus raises the widows son
- b. John 19:26 – Mary – “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.”

- 4. Acts 6:1-4 – “Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.”

5:3 – **Honor widows who are truly widows.**

5503 [e] 5091 [e] 3588 [e] 3689 [e] 5503 [e]

Chēras tima tas ontōs chēras

3 Χήρας τίμα , τὰς ὄντως χήρας .

Widows honor who [are] truly widows

N-AFP V-PMA-2S Art-AFP Adv N-AFP

- 1. “Honor” – *tima* – means “to fix the value”, “to price”, “to assign value”, “to give honor”, “consider precious”
- 2. “truly” – *ontos* – means “really”, “actually”, “truly”
 - a. This means some widows are “actually widows” or “really widows”
 - b. So, this also means that some widows are not “actually widows” in the classification of which Paul is discussing.
 - i. Some are widows, but are not destitute and alone. These are in need.
 - ii. Some are widows, but have material wealth, family support, and are NOT in need, so are not actually suffering the as a widow.

5:4 – **But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.**

1487 [e]	1161 [e]	5100 [e]	5503 [e]	5043 [e]	2228 [e]	1549 [e]	2192 [e]	3129 [e]	4412 [e]	3588 [e]	2398 [e]	3624 [e]	2151 [e]	2532 [e]
ei	de	tis	chēra	tekna	ē	ekgona	echei	manthanetōsan	prōton	ton	idion	oikon	eusebein	kai
4 εἶ	δέ	τις	χήρα	, τέκνα ἢ	ἔκγονα	ἔχει	, μανθανέτωσαν	πρῶτον	τὸν	ἴδιον	οἶκον	εὐσεβεῖν	καὶ	
If	however	any	widow	children or	grandchildren	has	let them learn	first	to the	own	household	to be devout	and	
Conj	Conj	IPro-NFS	N-NFS	N-ANP	Conj	Adj-ANP	V-PIA-3S	V-PMA-3P	Adv	Art-AMS	Adj-AMS	N-AMS	V-PNA	Conj

287 [e]	591 [e]	3588 [e]	4269 [e]	3778 [e]	1063 [e]	1510 [e]	587 [e]	1799 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]
amoibas	apodidonai	tois	progonois	touto	gar	estin	apodekton	enōpion	tou	Theou
ἀμοιβὰς	ἀποδιδόναι	τοῖς	προγόνοις	; τοῦτο	γάρ	ἐστὶν	ἀπόδεκτον	ἐνώπιον	τοῦ	Θεοῦ
recompense	to give	to	parents	this	for	is	pleasing	before	-	God
N-AFP	V-PNA	Art-DMP	N-DMP	DPro-NNS	Conj	V-PIA-3S	Adj-NNS	Prep	Art-GMS	N-GMS

5:5 – “She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day

3588 [e]	1161 [e]	3689 [e]	5503 [e]	2532 [e]	3443 [e]	1679 [e]	1909 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	2532 [e]	4357 [e]	3588 [e]	1162 [e]	2532 [e]
Hē	de	ontōs	chēra	kai	memonōmenē	ēlpiken	epi	ton	Theon	kai	prosmenei	tais	deēsesin	kai
5 Ἡ	δὲ	ὄντως	χήρα	, καὶ	μεμονωμένη	, ἤλπικεν	ἐπὶ	(τὸν)	Θεὸν	, καὶ	προσμένει	ταῖς	δεήσεσιν	καὶ
She who [is]	now	indeed	a widow	and	being left alone	has hope	in	-	God	and	continues	-	in supplications	and
Art-NFS	Conj	Adv	N-NFS	Conj	V-RPM/P-NFS	V-RIA-3S	Prep	Art-AMS	N-AMS	Conj	V-PIA-3S	Art-DFP	N-DFP	Conj

3588 [e]	4335 [e]	3571 [e]	2532 [e]	2250 [e]
tais	proseuchais	nyktos	kai	hēmeras
ταῖς	προσευχαῖς	νυκτὸς	καὶ	ἡμέρας
-	prayers	night	and	day
Art-DFP	N-DFP	N-GFS	Conj	N-GFS

Characteristics of a true Christian widow who qualifies as a “real widow” for an apparent “church list”:

1. A widow who is all alone with no living relatives.
2. Puts hope in God
3. Continues to pray night and day

5:6 – “but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives.

3588 [e]	1161 [e]	4684 [e]	2198 [e]	2348 [e]
hē	de	spatalōsa	zōsa	tethnēken
6 ἡ	δὲ	σπαταλώσα	, ζῶσα	τέθνηκεν
She	however	living in self-indulgence	[while] living	is dead
Art-NFS	Conj	V-PPA-NFS	V-PPA-NFS	V-RIA-3S

Characteristics of a widow who does not qualify as a true Christian widow:

1. *Spatalao* – “living in self-indulgence”
 - a. Meaning “to live riotously”
 - b. Used to say “lives extravagantly”, “lives luxuriously”
 - c. The word has the idea of living life in wastefulness, but is not focused on sensual indulgence.
 - d. James 5:5 – “You have lived on the earth in *luxury* (*truphaó*) and in ***self-indulgence*** (***spatalaó***). You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.”
 - e. In the Old Testament Amos 6:4 captures this idea when Amos describes the women of northern Israel in about 760 BC before the Assyrian dispersion of the nation forty years later in 721 BC:

“Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, who sing idle songs

to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music, who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore, they shall now be the first of those who go into exile, and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away.”

2. Widow who is not truly in need (has family)
3. Widow who is not truly Christian:
 - a. In belief
 - b. In lifestyle

5:7 – “Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach.

2532 [e]	3778 [e]	3853 [e]	2443 [e]	423 [e]	1510 [e]
Kai	tauta	parangelle	hina	anepilēptoi	ōsin
7	Καὶ	ταῦτα	παράγγελλε ,	ἵνα	ἀνεπιλήμπτοι ὧσιν .
Also	these things	command	so that	above reproach	they should be
Conj	DPro-ANP	V-PMA-2S	Conj	Adj-NMP	V-PSA-3P

1. Third of five commands to Timothy to “command” or “charge” these things or teachings of Paul:
 - a. 1:3
 - b. 4:11
 - c. 5:7
 - d. 6:13
 - e. 6:17

5:8 – “But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1487 [e]	1161 [e]	5100 [e]	3588 [e]	2398 [e]	2532 [e]	3122 [e]	3609 [e]	3756 [e]	4306 [e]	3588 [e]	4102 [e]	720 [e]	2532 [e]	1510 [e]	
ei	de	tis	tōn	idiōn	kai	malista	oikeiōn	ou	pronoei	tēn	pistin	ērnhetai	kai	estin	
8	εἰ	δέ	τις	τῶν	ἰδίων ,	καὶ	μάλιστα	οἰκείων ,	οὐ	προνοεῖ ,	τὴν	πίστιν	ἤρνηται ,	καὶ	ἔστιν
If	now	anyone	the	own	and	especially [his]	household	not	does provide for	the	faith	he has denied	and	he is	
Conj	Conj	IPro-NMS	Art-GMP	Adj-GMP	Conj	Adv	Adj-GMP	Adv	V-PIA-3S	Art-AFS	N-AFS	V-RIM-3S	Conj	V-PIA-3S	

571 [e]	5501 [e]
apistou	cheirōn
ἀπίστου	χείρων .
than an unbeliever	worse
Adj-GMS	Adj-NMS-C

1. Summary of 5:3-7
2. Tiers of responsibility:
 - a. First, responsibility of the individual, the widow herself
 - b. Second, responsibility of the individual family member(s)
 - c. Third, responsibility of the church

5:9-10 – “Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work.

5503 [e]	2639 [e]	3361 [e]	1640 [e]	2094 [e]	1835 [e]	1096 [e]	1520 [e]	435 [e]	1135 [e]
Chēra	katalegesthō	mē	elatton	etōn	hexēkonta	gegonuia	henos	andros	gynē
9 Χήρα	καταλεγέσθω	μὴ	ἔλαττον	ἐτῶν	ἑξήκοντα	, γεγονυῖα	ένος	άνδρὸς	γυνή ,
A widow	let be enrolled	not	less than	years [old]	sixty	being	of one	man	[the] wife
N-NFS	V-PPMM/P-3S	Adv	Adj-ANS-C	N-GNP	Adj-GNP	V-RPA-NFS	Adj-GMS	N-GMS	N-NFS

1722 [e]	2041 [e]	2570 [e]	3140 [e]	1487 [e]	5044 [e]	1487 [e]	3580 [e]	1487 [e]	40 [e]	4228 [e]	3538 [e]
en	ergois	kalois	martyroumenē	ei	eteknotrophēsen	ei	exenodochēsen	ei	hagiōn	podas	enipsen
10 ἐν	ἔργοις	καλοῖς	μαρτυρουμένη ,	εἰ	ἐτεκνοτρόφησεν ,	εἰ	ἐξενοδόχησεν ,	εἰ	ἀγίων	πόδας	ἔνιψεν ,
in	works	good	being borne witness to	if	she has brought up children	if	she entertained strangers	if	saints'	feet	she has washed
Prep	N-DNP	Adj-DNP	V-PPM/P-NFS	Conj	V-AIA-3S	Conj	V-AIA-3S	Conj	Adj-GMP	N-AMP	V-AIA-3S

1487 [e]	2346 [e]	1884 [e]	1487 [e]	3956 [e]	2041 [e]	18 [e]	1872 [e]
ei	thlibomenois	epērkesen	ei	panti	ergō	agathō	epēkolouthesen
εἰ	θλιβομένοις	ἐπήρκεσεν ,	εἰ	παντὶ	ἔργῳ	ἀγαθῷ	ἐπηκολούθησεν .
if [to those]	being oppressed	she has imparted relief	if	every	work	good	she has followed after
Conj	V-PPM/P-DMP	V-AIA-3S	Conj	Adj-DNS	N-DNS	Adj-DNS	V-AIA-3S

1. This is written in a very business-like style. Not emotional, not mystical, not “churchy” or religious. But, matter of fact, this is the policy and the guidelines.
2. The requirements to be placed on a list of widows in need or enrolled as a responsibility of the church:
 - a. Age restriction: sixty years old or older
 - b. Wife of one man. Meaning a faithful wife, not meaning she was married twice. This is obvious since Paul is going to advise that widows remarry next.
 - c. Good deeds that are well known by the people to prove her character:
 - i. Bringing up children
 - ii. Showing hospitality
 - iii. Washing the feet of the saints, which probably is a metaphor of serving the church and the people in the church as anyone should who is born again and gifted by the Holy Spirit
 - iv. Helping those in trouble. She has sown good seed of assisting others in need, so she should reap the harvest.
 - v. General reference to many other unidentified “good deeds” or “all kinds of good deeds” that should be the natural production of the Christian life

5:11-12 – **“But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith.**

3501 [e]	1161 [e]	5503 [e]	3868 [e]	3752 [e]	1063 [e]	2691 [e]	3588 [e]	5547 [e]	1060 [e]	2309 [e]
Neōteras	de	chēras	paraitou	hotan	gar	katastrēniasōsin	tou	Christou	gamein	thelousin
11 Νεωτέρας	δὲ	χήρας	παραίτου ;	ὅταν	γὰρ	καταστρηνιάσωσιν	τοῦ	Χριστοῦ ,	γαμῆν	θέλουσιν ,
Younger	however	widows	refuse	when	for	they might grow wanton against	-	Christ	to marry	they desire
Adj-AFP-C	Conj	N-AFP	V-PPMM/P-2S	Conj	Conj	V-ASA-3P	Art-GMS	N-GMS	V-PNA	V-PIA-3P

2192 [e]	2917 [e]	3754 [e]	3588 [e]	4413 [e]	4102 [e]	114 [e]
echousai	krima	hoti	tēn	prōtēn	pistin	ēthētēsan
12 ἔχουσαι	κρίμα	ὅτι	τὴν	πρώτην	πίστιν	ἠθέτησαν .
incurring	judgment	because	the	first	faith	they have cast off
V-PPA-NFP	N-ANS	Conj	Art-AFS	Adj-AFS	N-AFS	V-AIA-3P

5:13 – “Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not.

260 [e]	1161 [e]	2532 [e]	692 [e]	3129 [e]	4022 [e]	3588 [e]	3614 [e]	3756 [e]	3440 [e]	1161 [e]	692 [e]	235 [e]
hama	de	kai	argai	manthanousin	perierchomenai	tas	oikias	ou	monon	de	argai	alla
13 ἅμα	δὲ	καὶ	ἀργαῖ	μανθάνουσιν	, περιερχόμεναι	τὰς	οἰκίας ;	οὐ	μόνον	δὲ	ἀργαῖ	, ἀλλὰ
Adv	Adv	Conj	Adj-NFP	V-PIA-3P	V-PPMP-NFP	Art-AFP	N-AFP	Adv	Adv	Conj	Adj-NFP	Conj

2532 [e]	5397 [e]	2532 [e]	4021 [e]	2980 [e]	3588 [e]	3361 [e]	1163 [e]
kai	phylaroi	kai	periergoi	lalousai	ta	me	deonta
καὶ	φλύαροι	καὶ	περίεργοι	, λαλοῦσαι	τὰ	μὴ	δέοντα .
Conj	Adj-NFP	Conj	Adj-NFP	V-PPA-NFP	Art-ANP	Adv	V-PPA-ANP

1. The problem with younger widows (59 years old!!! or younger) who are taken care of by the church or are not required to be responsible as an individual:
 - a. They “learn” – *manthanousi* – a false, unrealistic way of life.
 - i. *Manthanousi* from *manthano* – *μανθάνω* – means “to learn” and is translated often as “a disciple”
 1. Matthew 9:13 – “go and learn what this means”
 2. Matthew 11:29 – “take my yoke upon you and learn from me”
 3. Matthew 24:32 – “ Now learn the parable of...”
 4. John 6:45 – “who has heard and learned from the Father.”
 5. Philippians 4:9 – “The things you have learned and received”
 6. Philippians 4:11 – “for I have learned to be content”
 7. 1 Timothy 2:11 – “must quietly receive instruction with entire...”
 8. 2 Timothy 3:14 – “in the things you have learned and become convinced of...”
2. By receiving a “free ride” from the church when they are able to engage in life to lead a normal responsible life, they “learn” or “become a disciple” of a false, disastrous lifestyle:
 - a. They become idle and inactive
 - b. They go from house to house (church to church? Or, “social setting to social setting”)
 - c. Gather information from homes, churches, social talk) and start to gossip
 - d. They are “busybodies” – *periergoi* –
 - i. *Periergos* – meaning “overly careful”, “curious”, meddling
 1. From two words:
 - a. *Peri* = “all around”
 - b. *Ergon* = “work”
 2. Used to say:
 - a. Possibly positive: “worked all-around” to describe “overdoing”
 - b. Or, clearly negative:
 - i. “spending excessive time and effort”
 - ii. Giving effort where it does not belong
 - iii. Creating things and situations that should not happen
 - ii. Also in 1 Thessalonians 3:11 –
 - e. Say things they ought not say. Say things that are not Christian, helpful, beneficial,

5:14 – “So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander.

1014 [e]	3767 [e]	3501 [e]	1060 [e]	5041 [e]	3616 [e]	3367 [e]	874 [e]	1325 [e]	3588 [e]	480 [e]
Boulomai	oun	neōteras	gamein	teknogonein	oikodespotein	médemian	aphormèn	didonai	tò	antikeimeno
14 Βούλομαι	οὖν	νεωτέρας	γαμεῖν	, τεκνογονεῖν	, οἰκοδεσποτεῖν	, μηδεμίαν	ἀφορμὴν	διδόναι	τῷ	ἀντικειμένῳ
I want	therefore	[the] younger [ones]	to marry	to bear children	to manage their households	no	occasion	to give	the [one]	opposing
V-P1M/P-1S	Conj	Adj-AFP-C	V-PNA	V-PNA	V-PNA	Adj-AFS	N-AFS	V-PNA	Art-DMS	V-PPM/P-DMS

3059 [e]	5484 [e]
loidorias	charin
λοιδορίας	χάριν .
of reproach	on account
N-GFS	Prep

1. What Paul recommends for younger widows to live the Christian life:
 - a. Re-marry
 - b. Have children
 - c. Manage their homes
 - i. “to manage their households” is *oikodespoteó*
 1. Meaning : to rule a household” and is used to say “manage a household”
 2. This does not mean become a household servant washing clothes and cooking meals
 3. This word from two words:
 - a. *Oikos* = “a house”, “a dwelling” used to refer to the material building but also the family, the lineage, the household
 - b. *Despotes* = “lord”, “master” used to say “a lord”, “a master”, “a prince”
 4. This word is translated in the New Testament as:
 - a. “head of the house” to refer to Jesus
 - b. “The landowner” in the parable of the weeds
 - c. “master of the house” who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.
 - d. “owner of the house” who the disciples were to ask where to have the Last Supper.
2. The slander would come from the world and the pagans who themselves do better at caring for widows than the believers in this case.
3. The adversary would be the pagan world (or, even the Jews) who are critical of the church.

5:15 – “For some have already strayed after Satan.

2235 [e]	1063 [e]	5100 [e]	1624 [e]	3694 [e]	3588 [e]	4567 [e]
ēdē	gar	tines	exetrapēsan	opisō	tou	Satana
15 ἤδη	γάρ	τινες	ἔξετραπήσαν	ὀπίσω	τοῦ	Σατανᾶ .
Already	for	some	have turned aside	after	-	Satan
Adv	Conj	IPro-NFP	V-AIP-3P	Prep	Art-GMS	N-GMS

5:16 – “If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.”

	1487 [e]	5100 [e]	4103 [e]	2192 [e]	5503 [e]	1884 [e]	846 [e]	2532 [e]	3361 [e]	916 [e]	3588 [e]	1577 [e]	2443 [e]
	Ei	tis	pistē	echei	chēras	eparkeito	autais	kai	mē	bareistho	he	ekklēsia	hina
16	Εἴ	τις	πιστὴ	ἔχει	χήρας	, ἐπαρκεῖτω	αὐταῖς	, καὶ	μὴ	βαρείσθω	ἡ	ἐκκλησία	, ἵνα
	If	any	believing [woman]	has	[dependent] widows	let her impart relief	to them	and	not	let be burdened	the	church	so that
	Conj	IPro-NFS	Adj-NFS	V-PIA-3S	N-AFP	V-PMA-3S	PPro-DF3P	Conj	Adv	V-PMMP-3S	Art-NFS	N-NFS	Conj
	3588 [e]	3689 [e]	5503 [e]	1884 [e]									
	tais	ontōs	chērais	eparkesē									
	ταῖς	ὧτως	χήραις	ἐπαρκέσῃ	.								
	to those [who are]	truly	widows	it may impart relief									
	Art-DFP	Adv	N-DFP	V-ASA-3S									

Greek text boxes are taken from www.biblehub.com for example here is a link to 1 Timothy 5:1 interlinear: https://biblehub.com/interlinear/1_timothy/5-16.htm