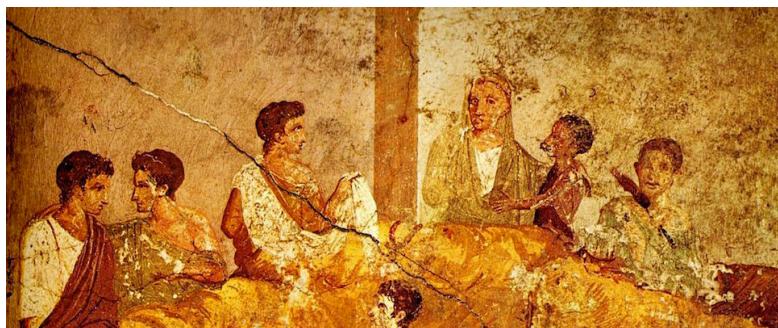


STUDY 7

RESPECT, CARE, AND HONOUR

OBJECTIVES

1. To be able to give reasons why the Church should be comprised of different generations.
2. To identify who qualifies for a church to practically support.
3. To formulate a strategy for being a single follower of Christ.
4. To describe the reasons why teaching elders should be both honoured and possibly publicly shamed.



BACKGROUND

The Ephesian church was learning how the gospel informed their relationships with each despite their Greco-Roman culture. Some years earlier, Caesar Augustus had attempted to regulate how widows were to conduct themselves after the death of their husbands by introducing the concept of a ‘widow for life’. It appears that there was an unforeseen cultural response to this edict that had led many widows to behave like Roman men. This promiscuous behaviour among widows had apparently infiltrated into

233. Dr. Andrew Corbett

30 May 2021 at 2:29:10 pm

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

234. Dr. Andrew Corbett

30 May 2021 at 2:29:17 pm

It potentially discourages fellowship between people of different generations.

Dear Timothy, Small Group Bible Studies

235. Dr. Andrew Corbett

30 May 2021 at 2:36:11 pm

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

236. Dr. Andrew Corbett

30 May 2021 at 2:36:19 pm

We treat older people like parents, and younger people like siblings.

237. Dr. Andrew Corbett

30 May 2021 at 3:28:08 pm

The style of music and its volume. The language of the preaching.

238. Dr. Andrew Corbett

30 May 2021 at 3:27:59 pm

1Tim. 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.

239. Dr. Andrew Corbett

30 May 2021 at 3:57:23 pm

1Tim. 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.

240. Dr. Andrew Corbett

30 May 2021 at 3:57:31 pm

Family members

the church and cast all widows into an unfair social stigma. This needed to be addressed by Timothy through the various teaching elders within the Ephesians householder churches.

Objective 1 - To be able to give reasons why the Church should be comprised of different generations.

Some churches are now choosing to separate their youth and children from their adults as they each enter for their weekly church service. While having people of the same age bracket enabled to fellowship with each other may have some benefits, it may also unnecessarily send an unhealthy message.

1. Based on First Timothy 5:1-2, what might be an unhealthy message from the practice of separating a church's youth and children from its adults be?

[233]

2. How does acceptance of the Gospel change the way believers of different ages interact with each other? (1Tim. 5:1-2)

[234]

3. What challenges does a multi-generational church face with its weekly worship service?

[235]

Objective 2 - To identify who qualifies for a church to practically support.

The Gospel not only informs how we interact with each other within our church, it also informs how we interact *within* our families.

3. Who does the primary responsibility for a family member in need fall to, and why? (Note 1Tim. 5:8, 16)

[236]

[237]

241. Dr. Andrew Corbett

30 May 2021 at 3:34:31 pm
1Tim. 5:9 ¶ Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband,
1Tim. 5:10 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.

Dear Timothy, Small Group Bible Studies

242. Dr. Andrew Corbett

2 June 2021 at 9:04:29 pm
* A reputation for good works
* Faithfully brought up her children
* "Washed the feet of the saints"
- shown practical care for her church family
* Cared for the afflicted

4. What traits qualified an older widow for financial support from her church according to First Timothy 5:9-10?

[241]

[242]

243. Dr. Andrew Corbett

2 June 2021 at 9:27:50 pm
devote

244. Dr. Andrew Corbett

2 June 2021 at 9:19:39 pm
Acts 6:3 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.
Acts 6:4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

245. Dr. Andrew Corbett

2 June 2021 at 9:24:22 pm
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.

246. Dr. Andrew Corbett

2 June 2021 at 9:26:37 pm
What James states is remarkably practical and may not initially seem to be very "spiritual". It includes visiting and helping widows and orphans.

247. Dr. Andrew Corbett

3 June 2021 at 11:23:51 am
Acts 6:1 ¶ 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.
Acts 6:2 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.
Acts 6:3 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."

Women are often the backbone of a church. Paul has particularly identified these *older* widowed ladies as filling a vital role of service within the church that younger women (often with their parenting responsibilities) were not able to devote themselves to. The service these older ladies rendered within the church would have enabled those called to minister the Word to

d ____ e themselves that task (refer also to Acts 6:3-4).

5. What does James 1:27 tell us about what the obligations of a believer were, who wanted to live a godly life?

[243]

The early Church quickly developed a relief ministry by caring for widows who had no other means of support (Acts 6:1-6). But it's important to note that they appointed 'specialists' to oversee this work and that the apostles refused to make the Church's relief work their sole priority.

Objective 3 - To formulate a strategy for being a single follower of Christ.

Not everyone is called by God to m ____ y. In First Corinthians 7:8, Paul encourages some believers to serve God as *singles*. The call to remain single is not sensed by all singles. These believers must resist the temptation to make their hope of marriage their main priority in life.

6. Based on Matthew 6:33 what should be the single person's highest priority?

[244]

Acts 6:4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”
Acts 6:5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.
Acts 6:6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.
Acts 6:7 ¶ And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

248. Dr. Andrew Corbett

2 June 2021 at 9:29:07 pm
marry

249. Dr. Andrew Corbett

2 June 2021 at 9:29:57 pm
1Cor. 7:8 ¶ To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am.

250. Dr. Andrew Corbett

2 June 2021 at 9:35:27 pm
Matt. 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

251. Dr. Andrew Corbett

2 June 2021 at 9:35:43 pm
The single, as with the married person, must make God and His Word their highest priority.

252. Dr. Andrew Corbett

3 June 2021 at 11:37:53 am

Rom. 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

253. Dr. Andrew Corbett

3 June 2021 at 11:41:18 am

The temptation for a single desiring to be married is to be envious of and even bitter towards those other singles who get married.

254. Dr. Andrew Corbett

3 June 2021 at 1:30:04 pm

Acts 6:4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

255. Dr. Andrew Corbett

3 June 2021 at 1:34:35 pm

1Tim. 5:17 ¶ Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

256. Dr. Andrew Corbett

3 June 2021 at 1:38:23 pm

They are worthy of double honour because they labour in preaching and teaching.

257. Dr. Andrew Corbett

3 June 2021 at 1:36:01 pm

1Tim. 5:18 For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages."

258. Dr. Andrew Corbett

3 June 2021 at 1:38:56 pm

Preaching and teaching the Word is considered "work" done by a labourer who deserves to be paid.

259. Dr. Andrew Corbett

3 June 2021 at 2:32:39 pm

pastor

260. Dr. Andrew Corbett

3 June 2021 at 2:37:00 pm

1Tim. 5:22 Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure.

261. Dr. Andrew Corbett

3 June 2021 at 2:39:49 pm

accountable

Dear Timothy, Small Group Bible Studies

- [252] 7. Note the imperative for believers stated by Paul in **Romans 12:15**. How might those believers who are single yet desire to be married find this difficult?

[253]

For those of us who are married and perhaps already have families of our own, there is a need for us to be *sensitive* toward those who are singles. This might include being sensitive about including singles in our conversations and discussing *their* interests rather than talking about our spouse or children. It might also involve including them in social events without making it look obvious that they are the only single. Perhaps you are aware of other ways we can be sensitive to those single believers in our church?

Objective 4 - To describe the reasons why teaching elders should be honoured and possibly publicly shamed.

- We notice that from the outset of the Church, the apostles did not want to forsake the urgent need to preach the gospel and teach the Word (**Acts 6:4**). This kind of ministry calls for enormous times of prayer and preparation and even years of preparation (each of the apostles was trained for three and half years by Jesus).

- [254] [255] 8. According to **First Timothy 5:17**, how should these teaching elders be treated and why?

[256]

- [256] [257] 9. Some people claim that *paying* a pastor to preach is wrong. How does **First Timothy 5:18** correct this idea?

[258]

- [258] [259] We generally refer to a *teaching elder* as a **p ____ r**. Pastors and elders have a lot of influence within a church which is why they should not be hastily commissioned into their role (note **1Tim. 5:22**). As with any leadership position, the more responsibility and authority someone has, the more **a _____ e** they must be as well.

[260] [261]

262. Dr. Andrew Corbett

3 June 2021 at 2:48:09 pm

1Tim. 5:19 Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

1Tim. 5:20 As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.

1Tim. 5:21 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality.

Dear Timothy, Small Group Bible Studies

- [262] 10. How are elders and pastors to be held to account based on First Timothy 5:19-21?
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APPLICATION

13. What are some ways that you could suggest that a church could ensure that it welcomes and integrates people from a wide age-range into its fellowship so that there is a healthy multi-generational interaction?
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14. How could our church assist and care for its older widows who do not have any nearby family?
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-
-

15. If an eligible single person confided in you that they were battling with loneliness and found it difficult to find their place in our church that seemed to be focused on couples and families, what Biblically-based advice would you give them?
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-
-
-

16. If you were approached by the senior leadership of our church to consider being appointed as an elder, why might you be both honoured and hesitant at the same time?
