

DISCUSSION GUIDE

How to Treat People in the Church

1 Timothy — Week 19

ICEBREAKER: If you could do something very daring without fear, what would you do?

OVERVIEW: We live in a very selfish society. Most people only think about themselves. “What’s in it for me? Why should I care? What does that have to do with me? Mind your own business. It’s my life, and I’ll do whatever I want with it.” But the Bible has called Christians to live in community with one another in the church. And for the church to be healthy and function effectively, there’s a certain way that we need to treat one another. In this study we will go deeper with 1 Timothy 5 and discuss the principles that can equip us to treat each other right.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday’s message?)
2. Why is it important to think carefully about how we should treat one another in the church?
3. How have you been positively impacted by the relationships you’ve made at church?
4. Read 1 Timothy 5:1-2. The first principle about the way to treat people in the church is to treat fellow members like family. Why do you think Paul tells Timothy not to rebuke an older man, but rather exhort him like a father? How can we make sure to treat people in the church around the same age as us with all propriety (or sexual purity)?

5. Read Romans 12:10 and Galatians 6:2. What are some practical ways that we can show family affection to another with brotherly love in the church? What are some practical ways that we can show honor to one another in the church? What are some ways that we can carry the burdens of fellow church members?
6. The second principle in 1 Timothy 5 about how to treat people in the church is to treat needy members with support. What can we learn about how to treat needy people from the following verses: Acts 2:44-45; Acts 4:34-35; Romans 12:13?
7. Read 1 Timothy 5:3-16. What guiding principles can we learn from this passage about supporting needy church members?
8. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15. How does this passage shed light on how to treat needy church members?
9. Read 1 Timothy 5:17-25. The third principle about how to treat people in the church is to treat pastors with honor. What specific instructions does this passage give for how to treat pastors?
10. Why is it important to treat pastors with honor? What are some specific ways that you can honor pastors?

The Last Word: Deep friendships, and shared burdens. That’s what church needs to be like.