



At one time or another, all of us have probably been in a situation in which we felt that someone in our church family was sinning. Whether or not we act on it and how we communicate to that person has a big effect on the outcome. Often when we rebuke others about their lifestyles, we come off as being judgmental and self-righteous. When Paul tells Timothy about specific persons and groups he needed to confront about certain issues, he is careful to show how to do so in love. Paul's teaching here gives us valuable guidance on being both direct and loving with other Christians.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read and meditate on [1st Timothy 5:1-25](#). Jot down 1 or 2 new thoughts that seem important. Why are they important?
2. When have you found or seen rebuke to have a positive impact?
3. Thinking of [1st Timothy 5:3-8](#), how is a godly widow to be distinguished from an ungodly one?
4. Re-read [1st Timothy 5:9-10](#). What criteria did a widow need to meet to receive a place on the list of those who received financial aid from the church?
5. Read [1st Timothy 5:17-18](#), [Deuteronomy 25:4](#), [Luke 10:7](#), and [1st Corinthians 9:3-12](#). Why would God repeatedly tells us that one who works hard at preaching and teaching is worthy of respect and compensation? Why is this important to the church?
6. Why do you think Paul gives these specific instructions about rebuking an elder in [verses 19-20](#)?
7. How have you found [1st Timothy 5:24-25](#) to be true?
8. How can you rebuke someone in ways that are clear but also affirm the other person as a member of God's family?
9. In affluent Ephesus, much like America today, many elderly people were evidently abandoned. What obligations do you have to your own parents?

MOVING FORWARD

What ideas does this passage give you for new areas of ministry? Pray for those in your church and within your sphere of influence who are needy and may be without family. Ask God how you can be used to serve His purposes in their lives.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

[“¹ Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, ² older women as mothers, and with all propriety, the younger women as sisters.”](#) [1st Timothy 5:1-2](#)