

CHARGES FOR THE CHURCH or ECCLESIASTICAL EXHORTATIONS or TIMOTHY'S TO NOT DO LIST

Imagine that you were going to have to send an inexperienced person to not only DO YOUR job for a while, but also, to straighten some problems out while they were at it... You would need to make a list of things to do... AND A LIST OF THINGS NOT to do, right?

That inexperienced person was Timothy in Ephesus, and here is the Apostle Paul's list...

1 Timothy 5:1 Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort *him* as a father,

- Back then... And even now, older people do not accept the advice of young people easily.
- Even when my brothers and I tried to talk my Dad out of living alone and moving closer to one of us... He wondered **out-loud** how four fifty something year old's, could possibly muster up enough wisdom to advise him – the man who once changed our diapers?
- Chuck Smith suggests that this kind of ministry be done privately, quietly, and with respect. **WITH PEOPLE OF YOUR OWN AGE...**

younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity. (**Innocence**)

WHAT ABOUT WIDOWS

3 Honor widows who are really widows.

- **NLT** - Take care of any widow who has no one else to care for her.
- This, to me, says "**take care of people who you know!**" And, we do!

4 But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.

- It is best if families take care of one another, and resources are left

available for the widows with no one to help them.

QUALIFIED WIDOWS

5 Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day.

- **COURSON – Once a widower himself wrote:** "Widows indeed" were women who gave themselves to constant prayer. I like the order—night and day. When one is suddenly single, sometimes it's hard to sleep. I've been there—but I'll tell you this: Such times provide wonderfully rich opportunities for prayer. When you can't sleep, don't watch TV. Pray. Go to your knees and intercede for those who are hurting. There's something about the nighttime hours that often cause them to become the matrix of miracles, the womb of wonder. There's something about being in the dark with the Lord that allows you to focus on Him, to do battle against the Enemy, to receive insight from Him in a way unlike at any other time of the day.
- **Please widows and singles of CCSV – PRAY for us.**

6 But she who lives in pleasure is dead (*spiritually*) while she lives.

- When we first became the Pastor at CCSV, we had a woman in the church who came asking for help – her utilities were about to be shut off. We couldn't pay her bills, but we tried to give her family enough money to keep the lights on. A few nights later, we saw her at the mall trying on rings at the jeweler, and, sure enough, she was showing off her new ring on Sunday. Verse 6 is her life verse.

7 And these things command, that they (*the families AND the widows*) may be blameless.

- This is a little "**tough love**" from the Apostle. **Here is some more...**

8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. **I HAVE HAD TO READ THIS TO A FEW MEN IN MY MINISTRY YEARS... IT'S NEVER A PLEASANT THING TO DO.** Godly Families take care of their own.

QUALIFICATIONS OF WIDOWS

9 Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, *and not unless* she has been the wife of one man, 10 well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.

- There is an important principle being taught by the Apostle here. It is this: When people came asking for help, help those who have helped others first.
- At the larger CC's where the line asking for help is long - they use forms asking the requestors for a record of their giving and service. That helps the Deacons & Elders know who is worthy of help. **More tough love.** Who gets refused? **Listen...**

11 But refuse *the* younger (**Carnal**) widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry, (**For the wrong reason**) 12 having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith.

- **NLT** - The younger widows should not be on the list, because their physical desires will overpower their devotion to Christ, and they will want to remarry. 12 Then they would be guilty of breaking their previous pledge.
- There were young widows in Ephesus who would offer to work full time to help around the church in return for support... BUT... Many soon became "**husband hunters**" and caused trouble... **What kind of trouble?**

13 And besides they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not. **Was Paul against remarrying? NO, Listen...**

14 Therefore I desire that *the* younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully. 15 For some have already turned aside after Satan. **YIKES! That is sad!**

PROPER WIDOW CARE

16 If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.

PROPER HONOR

17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.

PROPER WAGE

18 For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE AN OX WHILE IT TREADS OUT THE GRAIN," **DET 25:4** and, "**THE LABORER IS WORTHY OF HIS WAGES.**" **JESUS** in **LUKE 10:7**.

PROPER PROTECTION

19 Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses.

THIS MAY HAVE WORKED IN EPHESUS

20 Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear. *IT WOULDN'T BE WISE HERE – Chuck Smith*

RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND!

21 I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.

- Timothy... do not be guilty of honoring the rich and ignoring the poor.
- ALWAYS try to **BE** a blessing without expecting blessing! Smith – We should give everyone who visits the feeling that THEY are as important as the mayor of the town.
- Why? Because God , and His angels are watching!

PROPER VETTING

22 Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, (*Not a novice 3:6*) nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.

- Take your time proving or witnessing someone's faith before you make them a Leader. Promote a novice at your own peril.

PROPER PRESCRIPTION

23 No longer drink only water, but use a **little** wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.

- Why didn't Paul just heal Timothy?
- **GUZIK** - If it is God's will for all to be healed *right now*, then Paul (and the Holy Spirit who inspired him) here led Timothy into sin – calling him to look to a natural remedy instead of a divine healing. God uses natural remedies and the work of doctors in healing, as well as the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit – they don't contradict one another.

24 Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding *them* to judgment, but those of some *men* follow later. 25 Likewise, the good works of some are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden.

Wiersbe - No pastor or church member is perfect, but that should not hinder us from striving for perfection.

The ministry of a local church rises and falls with its leadership. Godly leadership means God's blessing, and that is what we want and need.

So CCSV, let us all strive to be useful for the Kingdom of God.