



TREAT PEOPLE LIKE FAMILY

A warning: This introduction may come off as pretty strong. It is and is intended to be. Our broken culture's track record with missing fathers, broken parents who can't care for their own children, grandparents raising grandchildren, etc. is tragic and will only change when more people heed and respond to what Paul is telling Timothy in this chapter. Responsibility is a word we should always take seriously. We should all aspire to be responsible and reliable. Equally important, we all should go beyond aspiration to becoming responsible and reliable, first to God and second to our physical and spiritual families. For those that are the model for the rest, thank you for being there. For the rest, learn from those people and do what they do.

Read 1 Timothy 5:1-8.

Russ talked about the difference between a growing church and a healthy church.

What are some signs that a church is genuinely healthy?

TALK ABOUT IT

What do you find difficult about Paul's instruction to treat older men as fathers, older women as mothers, younger men as brothers, and younger women as sisters?

What changes when we stop thinking of church as an organization we attend and begin thinking of it as a family, we belong to?

The sermon made the point that people often remember how we treated them more than the positions we held or the things we believed.

Why do you think that is true or not true?

In verses 3-8, **what responsibilities does Paul place first on the biological family?**

Why do you think he considers caring for family such an important expression of faith?

APPLY IT

Treating people like family involves more than financial support.

What are some relational, emotional, spiritual, or practical needs people in our church family may have?

Think about a time when someone in the church treated you like family.

What did they do, and why did it matter to you?

It is easy to think caring for people is primarily the responsibility of pastors or church staff.

Why is that mindset unhealthy?

What does it mean for each of us to say, “I am part of the church, so I am part of the solution”?

PRAY

There is a lot to pray about here. Many in society and in the Church are failing to address the needs of those who are weaker, helpless and alone. Believers need to be the role models we look up to in this regard. We can't let unbelievers or secular entities outshine the people of God. It's not about pride. It's about faith and reflecting Jesus. It's our calling.