

EXHORT THE ELDERLY

In our lesson text, Paul is encouraging the young pastor Timothy to show respect and Exhort the Elderly of the congregation.

(1 Tim.5:1-2) “**Do not sharply rebuke** (me epiplesso/ a.a.subj.2ps) older men, **but rather appeal** (**parakaleo**) [**exhort**] (**p.a. impv.2p**) [**command**] as a father, to the younger men as brother. The older woman as mothers, and the younger woman s sisters, **in all purity** (hagneia) [chaste based on wisdom] (1 Tim.4:12; 5:22).”

This lesson will study five aspects of the importance of Exhorting the Elderly of the church.

1. In our lesson text, Paul warns Timothy against treating harshly the elderly of the church.

He warns against **negativity**:

“Do not sharply rebuke (epiplesso)
[to strike upon; to wound their spirit].”

He encourages **positivity**:

“But rather appeal (parakaleo)
[to call upon; exhort to lift their spirits to remain faithful until dying grace].”

It is interesting that the following famous saying comes from an employment parable (financial investor).

(Matt.25:21) “**Well done, good and faithful** slave. You were faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” (Matt.25:14-30)

2. Paul commanded Timothy to exhort the elderly of the church “in all purity (hagneia) [Grace Oriented to living a godly life].”

Purity is described by Paul in:

(2 Cor.11:3) “But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and **purity of devotion to Christ**.”

(James 3:1) “But **wisdom from above is first pure**, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.” [Signs of spiritual maturity]

3. Paul commanded Timothy to treat the elderly of the church as personal family (fathers and mothers).

In our lesson text, Paul used the comparative particle (hos/ as) to list four categories of Church Family: “as a father; as a brother; as a mother; and as a sister.”

Every Church Age Believer (CAB) is a member of the royal family of God in Christ (father, mother, brother, and sister).

(Eph.3:15) “From whom every family (patria/ father lineage/ patriarch) in heaven and on earth derives its name.”

(John 1:12) “But as many as receive Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.”

(Gal.3:26) “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16)
(Eph.2:8-9)

4. In Paul discussion regarding the elderly in the church, he gives us an idea of what he considered elderly. Part is age and another part is sensual.

- One clue - over 60

(1 Tim.5:9) “A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old.”

- Another clue is elderly marrying because

(1 Tim.5:11) “still has sensual desires (katastreniao).”

- Age doesn't give a believer the right to be promiscuous whether young or old (**1 Cor.6:18-7:2**).

(1 Cor.7:2) “But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband.”

(1 Cor.7:9) “But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.”

5. One of the goals of the Christian Way of Life (CWL) is to reach and maintain Super Grace status unto Dying Grace.

Your greatest years of ministry can be in the grandparent age.

(Prov.20:29) “The glory of young men is their strength, and the honor of old men is their gray hair.”

Moses' greatest ministry was between 80-120 yrs (Exodus to Promise Land). Paul greatest ministry was the last thirty years of his life.

Be a great spiritually mature mentor of young believers like Moses to Joshua or Paul to Timothy and Titus.

(Ps.71:18) “And even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, **until I declare Your strength to this generation, your power to all who are to come.**” [Preparing the next generation of believers]

(Ps.92:14-15) “**They will still yield fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap and very green, to declare** that the Lord is upright; He is my Rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.”

We see great ministry in elderly age group with **Simeon and Anna** in Luke 2:21-38.

(Isa.46:4) “**Even to your old age I will be the same, and even to your graying years I will bear you! I have done it, and I will carry you; and I will bear you and I will deliver you.**” (Five promises to elder believers)

Once you reach 60 years of age, your greatest years of ministry are before you not just behind you.

No matter what you face in your elderly years listen to Job:

(Job 19:25-26) “As for me, **I know that my Redeemer lives**, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth. Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God.”