

May 17, 2009



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas



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God's Gift of Leadership A Study in 1 Timothy

Date	Lesson	Text
03/08	Introduction	
03/15	Strength to Serve	1:12-20
03/22	Need for Prayer	2:1-8
03/29	Leadership in Family	2:9-15
04/05	Bro. Smarto	
04/12	Easter—Bro. Smarto	
04/19	Call for Leaders Pt 1	3:1-7
04/26	Call for Leaders Pt 2	3:1-16
05/03	Guide for Teaching	4:1-16
05/10	MOTHER'S DAY	
05/17	Need for Respect	5:1-25
05/24	Review & Summary	

Food for Thought

RESPECT

People will listen to you carefully if they see you living faithfully. You're writing a "gospel," a chapter each day, by the deeds that you do, by the words that you say; Men read what you write, whether faithful or true, Say, what is the "gospel" according to you?

This is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.

1 Peter 2:15 NIV

(From "Our Daily Bread" - 07/20/00)

NEED FOR RESPECT

1 TIMOTHY 5:1-8, 17-25

The first half of the twentieth century saw the battle of "liberals" vs. "conservatives" in the church. Those in the first group laid emphasis upon what was called the **social gospel—concerns about poverty and the reform of society**. Those in the second group occupied themselves primarily with a **defense of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the salvation of people from sin and Hell**; concern over social issues lagged behind. In the latter half of the century, however, the conservatives increased their attention to the needs of the elderly, the handicapped, etc. There has been great progress in these areas. Even so, we still see a laxity with regard to personal responsibility on the part of believers concerning care of certain family members. Today's lesson is timely for those who live in a materialistic, self-centered culture. Paul offers a sobering reminder of those godly traits that should be inherent in family relationships, especially among believers. Last week we studied Paul's counsel to Timothy with regard to false teachers, their doctrines, and the necessity of exposing them. The lesson concluded with admonitions to Timothy concerning those things to which he needed to give continual attention in his personal life. **Paul now makes a transition and calls attention to meeting needs among certain members of the church.** God's solutions to meeting needs are not always the same as human solutions. For example, the courts have made it legal to eliminate unwanted pre-born children by way of abortion. In certain places and circumstances, the aged can be removed through a murderous process referred to as euthanasia. Some would eliminate all who, in their eyes, no longer contribute to society. But God created us in his own image and likeness (Genesis 1:26, 27). Every person is to be regarded with dignity and respect at all stages and situations of life.

(Excerpts from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Although Paul's words were specifically directed to a leader, they nonetheless have application to everyone. **Treating our elders as parents and our peers as brothers and sisters would make the congregation truly a family.** Paul was especially concerned with the widows. In his time widows had few means of support. The church could not turn a deaf ear to widows in the congregation who needed help. Judaism had always taught support of widows and the poor, and the churches kept up the practice. Paul was also concerned with the relationship between the leaders of the congregation and others. The congregation had a responsibility to honor and provide support for elders. Nor could elders be subject to the political whims of the congregation. Paul finished this section of his letter with instructions for Timothy's personal care. Young Timothy seems to have made accommodations to groups who took away people's liberty. Even Timothy's health suffered because of this accommodation.

(Excerpts from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

RESPECTING FAMILIES (1 TIM 5:1-8)

Respect for men and women (vs 1-2)

Respect elders because they are the under-shepherds for God (1 Peter 5:1-4)

Respect those who work hard among Christians (1 Thess 5:12-13)

We owe respect to every one (Rom 13:7)

Show proper respect to everyone (1 Peter 2:17)

Respect for widows (vs 3-6)

True religion compels the Christian to look after widows (James 1:27)

God protects widows, so they deserve respect (Ps 68:5)

God punishes those who do not respect widows (Mark 12:40)

Charge to families (vs 7-8)

Teach families to not forsake each other (Isa 58:6-7)

Teach fathers to not exasperate their children (Eph 6:4)

Teach fathers to know God (1 John 2:13)

Teach families to honor the father and mother (Eph 6:2)

Teach children to obey their parents (Eph 6:1)

Teach family management (1 Tim 3:5)

Teach families to love and how to be self-controlled (Titus 2:4-5)

RESPECTING LEADERS (1 TIM 5:17-25)

Support of leaders (vs 17-18)

Support by allowing the sharing of the benefits (1 Cor 9:7-11)

Support by sharing all good things with leaders (Gal 6:6)

Support by welcoming and honoring leaders (Phil 2:29-30)

Support by rewarding the service rendered by leaders (2 Tim 2:6)

Accountability of leaders (vs 19-20)

Accountable to God for those under their watch-care (Heb 13:17)

Accountability that cannot be judged by man without two or three witnesses (Deut 19:15)

Accountability that requires severe punishment (Heb 10:28-30)

Wisdom in selecting leaders (vs 21-25)

A prerequisite of the selection of leaders is prayer and fasting (Acts 13:3)

A prerequisite of the selection of leaders is the inquiring of God (Josh 9:14)

A prerequisite of the selection of leaders is testing (1 Tim 3:10)

A prerequisite of the selection of leaders is they must be qualified (2 Tim 2:2)

A prerequisite of the selection of leaders is their trustworthiness in sound doctrine (Titus 1:7-9)