

# the GOSPEL CHANGES EVERYTHING

March 8, 2015 – Discussion Questions

1 Timothy 5:1-8– The Gospel and Age

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## **Intro**

“If you were charged with being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?” The Gospel begins a process of changing everything about our lives the moment we trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

## **I. A Strategy of Relationships**

In I Timothy 4:12 some in the congregation were tempted to “despise” the youthfulness of one of their leaders. (Timothy was in his 30’s.) How might Timothy respond to their ‘despising?’ (1 Timothy 5:1)

*Why might older men need rebuke?*

Timothy is not to lash out in anger but rather exhort or encourage these men. Look up Leviticus 19:32. What instruction does God give to show honour to older people?

*Why might younger men need rebuke?*

How should ‘brothers’ be spoken to by other brothers in Christ?

How was Timothy to deal with older and younger women? Look up 2 Timothy 1:5. What impact had women had in Timothy’s life? Why does God through Paul insist upon “absolute purity?”

## **II. A Strategy of Recognition**

Although Paul singles out the treatment of widows, we asked ourselves a series of questions to determine a proper process in dealing with needy people.

1. What does it mean to be ‘really in need?’ (vs. 3 & 5 use this expression)
2. What responsibility do children and grandchildren have towards needy individuals in their families? (v.4)
3. How does an individual demonstrate dependence upon God? (v.5) What role do other Christians have in encouraging you to depend upon God during tough times?
4. How does Paul describe a person who lives for pleasure rather than for God?

## **III. A Strategy of Religion**

Why is it important to put our “religion into practice?”

Reread 1 Timothy 5:1-8 and notice the God-centeredness of this passage.

## **#1 The Family of God**

In what sense is this church a family? What does it mean to be a part of the family of God? What is your role in the family? Pray for those who are not a part of the family of God but are in your family!

## **#2 The Commandments of God**

Suggest ways by which you may honour your father and mother. What biblical counsel would you offer someone who has a broken relationship with their parents?

## **#3 The Pleasing of God**

In verse 4 Paul speaks of conduct that is "pleasing to God." How would this goal serve as a motivation for godly living?

## **#4 The Help of God**

Conclude your time together with a season of prayer. (v.5b) Declare your hope in God and ask Him for help in specific areas of your life. Our God is Jehovah-Jireh – The LORD our provider! Thank Him for His provision in your life.