

1 Tim 5 M.E.A.T Notes/Questions:

MEAT of the gospel: Motivation, Examination, Application, and Takeaway

1. How does the word “purity” flavor the relationships in verses 1&2?
2. Define a “true” widow and the attributes necessary for her to become a ward of the Church.
3. What is to happen to the young “true” widows?
4. What does it mean to bestow “double honor” to an elder?
5. Why would Paul instruct Timothy to drink wine? What makes the drinking of wine sinful vs ok?

Motivation:

Examination:

Application:

Takeaways:

- The word “purity” at the end of verse 2 establishes the flavor of verse 1&2.
 - It establishes a position of honor. Older men and women are to be honored as you would parents.
 - Younger men and women were to be honored in the same way as sisters and brothers – not like sex objects or possessions.
- A “true” widow is one without children or husband.
 - She has no head and then falls under the church for headship.
 - Family are expected to take care of family.
 - Not to do so denies Faith and is worse than unbelief
 - Widows under 60 were not to be taken on by the church, but instead remarry
 - For a “true” widow to even be taken on by the church, she had to have a history of “blamelessness”
 - Not divorced
 - Raised children
 - Lodged strangers
 - Washed the Saints’ feet
 - Relieved the afflicted
 - Diligent in Good Works
 - Widows outside these guidelines were to be allowed to let the natural consequences of their disobedience move them to repentance and prevent laziness/users
- Younger widows are refused so that they seek husbands, rather than live as a burden to the church.
 - Paul desires a good and nature life for them in remarriage
 - Bear children
 - Manage the house
 - Give no opportunity to idle talk, gossips, or busybodies
 - The address on widows points back to 1Tim 2:15 “saved through childbearing”
- Elders who rule well are to be counted worthy of “double honor”
 - This is especially true for those who teach and preach
 - Context of “double honor” is around provision
 - An ox who turns the gristmill is not muzzled, allowing it to eat its fill of the grain as it labors. Likewise, elders are worthy of a double portion of provision for their labor in working the harvest of souls
 - Context is also around integrity
 - Deuteronomy 19:15 - “A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed.
 - However, an elder who is found to be sinning is to be rebuked in public before the church, that the rest may fear.
 - High level of authority -> high level of accountability
- As a Leader of the Church, Timothy cannot show partiality, prejudice, be hasty, share in other’s sin; but must remain pure – the example
- “drink only water” – a drinker of only water
 - The correct use of wine as a water cleanser is a Blessing. It is not necessary to suffer to set a proper example.

- God sees all and knows all and, in the end, judges all
 - Whether or sin or good works are visible or invisible to people makes little difference in the Judgement of God

Pastor's MEAT:

Motivation: The church must be discerning in how it applies discipline and charity. Being generous to those who are not blameless or non-deliberate in correction creates more damage than it helps.

Examination: Do I hurt people by trying to help them when they shouldn't be helped? Do I hold myself and my elder's to the correct level of accountability? Am I impartial, hasty, or share in other's sins?

Application: I am guilty of giving handouts to people, rather than doing the hard work of truly helping them in a way that truly makes lasting, spiritual change because it's easier. I hold myself to a high level of accountability. I do not always hold my elders to a similar level. I strive hard to be impartial, not hasty, and avoid even the appearance of sin.

Takeaways: While I can't allow myself to justify not helping people, I do need to focus more on doing the hard work of helping. I need to scrutinize my action and inaction with my elders more. I need to continue to ask others to challenge me on partiality, haste, and sin.