### Lesson 23

### The Responsibilities of the Faithful Minister

###  1 Timothy 5

### Day 1: Honoring Widows, Part One (vs. 1-8)

1. What encouraged or challenged you from last week’s lesson or lecture to live differently?
2. Why do you think Paul uses family relationships as a comparison to relationships within the church?
3. The word translated “appeal” carries the idea of “coming alongside” in the Greek. How is this a helpful clarification when confronting personal sin?
4. From the following references, how does God value widows? Read Exodus 22:22–23, Deuteronomy 10:17–18 and 27:19, and James 1:27.
5. Who has the primary responsibility to provide financial support for a widow, and why?

	1. In verse 8, Paul strongly rebukes those who do not provide for a widow within their family. How do you think that could demonstrate a denial of faith?
6. From verse 5, define a “widow indeed” and explain the contrast Paul gives in verse 6.
7. What is the goal of Paul’s instruction to Timothy regarding widows?
8. In verse 4b, what specific instruction does Paul give to family members?

	1. How can you implement this instruction in your own life?

### Day 2: Honoring Widows, Part Two (vs. 9-16)

1. Being “put on the list” referred to those women who were recognized as being qualified for church ministry. What characteristics were prerequisites for such service?
2. How does Titus 2:3–5 add to your understanding of the qualifications these women were to possess and who they were to teach?

	1. Why were “older women” specifically qualified to serve in the church?
3. In verses 11–15, why were younger widows advised to remarry?
4. In verse 16, why do you think Paul reiterates the need to financially support widows?

### Day 3: The Labor and Striving of Faithful Ministers (vs. 17-19)

1. What elders are qualified to receive double honor?
2. **Dig Deeper**: Using cross-references or a commentary, where are the two sayings in verse 18 found in Scripture?

	1. What do you think Paul wanted to teach through these sayings?
3. What should our response be to those who teach us? See 1 Timothy 5:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:12, and Hebrews 13:17.
4. Why is it important to have two or three witnesses when making a public accusation against an elder? See Deuteronomy 19:15.
5. **Dig Deeper**: What is the goal of confronting sin within the church? Cite Scripture to support your answer.

### Day 4: The Conduct of Faithful Ministers (vs. 20-23)

1. According to verse 20, what is the purpose of publicly rebuking an elder who continues in sin?
2. Why is being impartial and unbiased an important principle when dealing with the unrepentant sin of a leader? See Leviticus 19:15 and Deuteronomy 16:19.
3. What is symbolic about the laying on of hands? See Numbers 27:18–23.
4. Why is it necessary not to be hasty in laying hands on someone? See 1 Timothy 3:10, Philippians 3:17, Hebrews 13:7, and 1 Peter 5:3.
5. For what purpose was wine used in verse 23?

	1. How does this verse relate to Paul’s earlier comments about wine in his discussion of qualifications for church leadership in 1 Timothy 3?

### Day 5: The Faithful Calling of Faithful Ministers (vs.24-25)

1. Some sins are evident, going before a person to judgment. What does Paul mean “for others, their sins follow after?”
2. Paul uses the same analogy for good works. What principle is Paul driving at in verses 24 and 25?
3. Pastor MacArthur uses the phrase “Time and truth go hand in hand” in explaining these verses. How does this phrase further your understanding of the process of selecting church leaders or judging their conduct?
4. What principles did you discover in this week’s study that require a change in your Christian walk?

	1. What will you do this week to implement this change?

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