



God's Family Values

September 13, 2026

Ice Breaker

What is one funny or memorable moment you have experienced at a family gathering, whether with your natural family or your church family?

Key Verses

- 1 Timothy 3:15
- 1 Timothy 5:1-4
- 1 Timothy 5:8-10
- Psalm 68:5

Questions

- Paul instructs Timothy to treat older men as fathers, older women as mothers, and younger members as brothers and sisters. How does thinking of your church as a family change the way you interact with people here on a Sunday morning or throughout the week?
- The sermon emphasized that God has a special concern for the most vulnerable people, including widows and orphans. Who are the most vulnerable people in your community right now, and what does it look like practically for your church family to care for them?

- Paul makes it clear that children and grandchildren should be the first to care for elderly parents and grandparents, and that this is pleasing to God. How well do you think our culture, including Christian culture, does at honoring and providing for aging parents? What gets in the way?
- The pastor pointed out that introducing money into relationships can complicate things quickly. Have you ever seen generosity go wrong, either in a family or a church setting? What lessons did that situation teach you?
- The sermon described two types of people in the church: those who are quick to give without asking questions and those who are slow to give and very skeptical. Which tendency do you lean toward, and how does God's Word in 1 Timothy 5 challenge or affirm your approach?
- Paul lists specific qualifications for widows who would receive ongoing financial support from the church, including a track record of good works, faithfulness in marriage, and hospitality. Why do you think God places such a high value on a person's history of faithfulness before extending ongoing support?
- The pastor used the image of a tandem bicycle to describe church life, where sometimes you pedal hard for someone else and sometimes you need others to carry more of the load. Can you think of a season in your life when you were in the back seat and needed the church to carry you? How did that shape your faith?
- The sermon repeatedly stated that the goal of both our natural families and our church family is spiritual maturity. What is one specific area of your life right now where you sense God calling you to grow in Christ-likeness, and how can this group help you pursue that?

Life Application

This week, identify one person in your life, whether a parent, grandparent, or someone in your church family, who may have a need you have been overlooking. Take one concrete step to honor and care for that person. It could be a phone call, a meal, a financial gift, or simply showing up. As you do it, ask God to use that act of service to grow both you and the person you are serving closer to Christ.

Key Takeaways

- The church is God's family, and we are called to treat one another with the same respect, care, and purity that we would show ideal family members, honoring older members as

parents and relating to younger members as brothers and sisters.

- God has a special heart for the most vulnerable, and the church has a responsibility to care for those who are truly in need, with widows serving as the clearest biblical example of this calling.
- Caring for elderly parents and grandparents is first and foremost a family responsibility, and when Christian families step up to meet those needs, it is genuinely pleasing to God and an opportunity for spiritual growth.
- Financial support from the church must always be tied to the goal of spiritual maturity. Giving without discernment or accountability can actually enable laziness, greed, or sinful patterns rather than encouraging growth in Christ.
- The ultimate goal of every natural family and every church family is spiritual maturity and Christ-likeness. All acts of care, generosity, and accountability within the church should be aimed at helping every person become more like Jesus.

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for the time we have had together in Your Word today. Thank You for calling us into Your family and for giving us one another to walk through life with. As we leave this discussion, help us to carry with us a deeper love for the people around us, both in our homes and in our church. Give us the courage to honor our parents and grandparents, the wisdom to care for the vulnerable in a way that truly helps them grow, and the humility to receive help when we need it ourselves. May everything we do be aimed at becoming more like Your Son, Jesus Christ. We ask all of this in His name, amen.