

Midtown Messenger

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Issue 35

Brethren Are Worthy Of Honor

By: John Baker

Every Christian should give serious thought to how we relate to our brothers and sisters in the Lord, and one approach does NOT fit every situation equally. In the challenging book of First Timothy, God deals with roles and relationships in the New Testament church, an entity which He calls His “household” or “family” (1 Tim. 3:15). How can Christians better relate to one another so that God will be glorified and the family of God can be edified? First Timothy 5:1-2 contains one answer. Paul writes to Timothy: “Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity.”

First Timothy 5:1-2 contains two critical verbs: “*Do not rebuke*” and “*exhort*.” Timothy has just been reminded that his ministry is to command and teach the Word of God so that people will be saved (1 Tim. 4:11, 16). Further, part of Timothy’s overall commission in Ephesus was to, “Charge some that they teach no other doctrine” (1:3). But First Timothy 5:1-2 qualifies the manner in which Timothy is to carry out his mission. The Greek word for “rebuke” in First Timothy 5:1 is unusual (occurring only here in the New Testament), and carries the connotation of *verbally striking another person*. Thus, as he fulfills his ministry of warning, correcting and instructing, Timothy is to take care not to rebuke older men, but rather to exhort them. The Greek word for “*exhort*” is *parakaleo* which means, “To urge, to encourage, to invite, or to implore earnestly.” So,

Timothy is to make exhortation his standard approach in his relationships with others. Consider how the exhortation is to be carried out in different situations.

Exhort older men as fathers – As a young man serving the Lord, Timothy needed to be cognizant of how older Christians perceived him. Young people cannot do anything to change the fact that they are young, so God’s Word gives practical principles like: “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12). In like manner, Timothy was taught to approach and teach older men “as fathers.” Practically speaking, this implies the following: respect for an older man’s wisdom and experience, a willingness to listen and understand before attempting to be understood, and a careful and gracious approach in speech. Every younger Christian would do well to exhort an older man as if he were a father.

Exhort younger men as brothers – Timothy was a man who sincerely cared for the people with whom he worked (Phil. 2:20). He was not a hireling, merely putting in hours for a paycheck; rather, his goal was to help people glorify God. In dealing with younger men, Paul commanded Timothy to exhort them as brothers. Scripture indicates that true brotherhood is characterized by friendship, kindness, encouragement and mutual respect (Pro. 18:24; 27:17; 2 Pet. 1:7). Our brothers are not to be counted as enemies, even when disagreements become sharp (Acts 15:36-41; 2 Thess. 3:15). While there IS

a time to contend earnestly for the faith, it still is true that anger, malice and strife do not engender close bonds of brotherhood, nor do they produce the righteousness of God (Jas. 1:19-20).

Exhort older women as mothers – How grateful Timothy must have been for the spiritual influence of his mother and grandmother (2 Tim. 1:5). Surely it would not have been difficult for Timothy to remember the lessons of love, honor and respect that Lois and Eunice instilled in him. Elsewhere Paul wrote that some older women might have a tendency to become, “Slanderers or slaves to much wine,” but young preachers like Timothy and Titus were to teach them to be reverent in behavior (Tit. 2:3). Timothy’s teaching was to be characterized by a son’s gentle exhortation of his mother. Sometimes in the church, older women need to be instructed or corrected. Modern Christians would do well to remember that even though sin must be addressed, we should still relate to older women as we would our own mothers. May it never be said that our personal attitude and demeanor hindered someone from grasping the greatness of the Gospel message.

Exhort younger women as sisters, with all purity – As a young man, Timothy was to be especially careful in how he dealt with younger women. First, Paul said he should treat them as sisters. This implies a recognition of their dignity and worth in the sight of God as well as a commitment to their protection. Second, Paul said that Timothy’s exhortations of younger women should maintain the standard of “all purity.” In his relationships with younger women, Timothy was to be pure and holy in his motives and actions (1 Cor. 6:18-20). Thank God that He has not only given us His truth, but that He has instructed us about how properly to relate to others as we teach and exhort them. May all of God’s people relate to each other as the family God intended.

*From: Christian Worker (a publication of the Southwest Church of Christ
John Baker is the minister for the Katy Church of Christ, Katy Texas*

A Watchman

The watchman was a critical part of ancient cities. He would sit on top of a tower looking for threats. As soon as he saw an enemy approaching he would sound an alarm so that the gates of the city would be closed. Failing to sound the alarm could be costly.

Ezekiel was called by God to be a watchman for his people. He was not to be afraid, but faithfully warn the people of God’s judgments by teaching them all of His Word.

So I ask the question, who is in your city? You are a watchman for someone. God has placed you in a position of influence and expects you to faithfully sound the alarm and warn with his Word. Who is in your city?

-Selected-

He has made my teeth grind on gravel,
and made me cower in ashes;
my soul is bereft of peace;
I have forgotten what happiness is;
so I say, "My endurance has perished;
so has my hope from the LORD."

Remember my affliction and my wanderings,
the wormwood and the gall!
My soul continually remembers it
and is bowed down within me.
But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."
Lamentations 3:16-24

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of August 30, 2020

subject to change

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobes

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Doug Jobes
Fruit of the Vine: Doug Jobes
Offering: Bryce Dolan

Prayer

A.M. Opening: James Cammock
A.M. Closing: Isaac Jobes

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Kevin Sheeran
Wed. P.M.: Kevin Sheeran

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: James Cammock

Open/Close Building:

Sound System: Mark FitzSimmons

To Our Visitors: We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.

Sermons are available on our website www.midtowncoc.org under Resources.

MidTown's Bible Classes and Worship services can be viewed livestream on YouTube. Search MidTown church of Christ Victoria.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Please pray for the country during this time of the Corona Virus Pandemic. Debra Sanchez's son Josiah, who broke his leg. He is in need of youth size crutches if anyone has some he can borrow.

New Bible Class Quarter—Starts September 6th!

Beginning Sunday, September 6th, Bible classes will be held on both Sunday and Wednesday's for youth. Cradle Roll; 4 years old to 3rd grade; 4th grade to 6th grade, and Jr high through Senior high. Details are posted on the hall bulletin board. Teachers and students will be practicing social distancing during these classes.

*****FRIENDLY REMINDER TO CONTINUE PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING*****

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Janice FitzSimmons
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Charlie Mabe
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Class: 9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00 PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of August 23, 2020

A.M. Bible Class.....66
A.M. Worship.....80
Online views during worship.....50
Wednesday Bible Class.....52

Offering week of August 23, 2020.....\$4,034

Reading for this week:

"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them a warning from me."

Ezekiel 3:17

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony Scherffius

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