

**Blueprint for a Healthy Church**  
**Building A Culture Of Honor (#6) 1 Timothy 5**  
**February 8, 2026**  
**Pastor Ed Turley**

**Sermon Notes**

**Big Idea:** A healthy church **builds a culture of honor** by caring for one another with respect, compassion, and wise accountability.

**To Build a Culture of Honor In Our Church:**

**1. Treat Every Person with Respect and Family-Like Care**

<sup>1</sup> Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, <sup>2</sup> older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity. **1 Timothy 5:1-2 (NIV)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

• **Instructions On How To Care For Widows Who Are In Need**

<sup>3</sup> Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. <sup>5</sup> The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. <sup>6</sup> But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. <sup>8</sup> If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. **1 Timothy 5:1-8 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> No widow may be put on **the list** of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, <sup>10</sup> and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds. <sup>11</sup> As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. <sup>12</sup> Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. <sup>13</sup> Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to. <sup>14</sup> So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. <sup>15</sup> Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan. <sup>16</sup> If any woman who is a believer has widows in her family, she should help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need. **1 Timothy 5:9-16 (NIV)**

## Caring For The Needy Should Be Guided By:

- **Compassion**—we care for those in real need
- **Responsibility**—families should care for their own
- **Discernment**—the church helps wisely, not impulsively

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Support and Protect Faithful Spiritual Leadership

<sup>17</sup> The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. <sup>18</sup> For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."

<sup>19</sup> Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought **by two or three witnesses**. <sup>20</sup> **Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning.** <sup>21</sup> I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.

### 1 Timothy 5:17-21 (NIV)

#### A culture of honor:

- Protects leaders from false accusations
- Holds leaders accountable with integrity
- Guards the unity and witness of the church

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Lead with Wisdom, Patience, and Integrity

<sup>22</sup> Do not be **hasty** in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. **Keep yourself pure.** <sup>23</sup> Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your **frequent illnesses**. <sup>24</sup> The sins of some men are **obvious**, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of **others trail behind them**. <sup>25</sup> In the same way, **good deeds are obvious**, and even those that are not **cannot be hidden**.

### 1 Timothy 5:22-25 (NIV)

- **In God's timing, both faithfulness and failure come to light.**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

- **How will you help build a culture of honor at our church?**

**Next Right Step**, This week, I will:

- [ ] Speak with greater respect and grace across generations
- [ ] Pray for and encourage a spiritual leader
- [ ] Guard my integrity and make wise, patient decisions



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**Leader Focus:**

- ✓ Review questions beforehand so you are prepared
- ✓ Honor your time commitment as a group.
- ✓ Keep discussion relational, not reactive
- ✓ Reinforce grace, humility, and unity

**Icebreaker (5 minutes)**

Who is someone who made you feel valued and respected in a meaningful way?  
What did they do?

**Group Discussion (20–25 minutes)**

**To Build a Culture of Honor In Our Church:**

**1. Treat Every Person with Respect and Family-Like Care**

**Read 1 Timothy 5:1-16**

- How does viewing the church as a family change how we treat one another?
- How do I speak to people across generations?
- Which relationships in your life need more intentional honor and respect?
- How can our relationships reflect purity?
- How can we balance compassion with responsibility?

## **2. Support and Protect Faithful Spiritual Leadership**

### **Read 1 Timothy 5:17-21**

- How can a church both honor leaders and hold them accountable?
- Do I value spiritual leadership—or take it for granted?
- Am I committed to truth with fairness? What does this look like?
- How does honoring spiritual leaders protect the health of the church?
- Where might God be calling you to practice patience and discernment?

## **3. Lead with Wisdom, Patience, and Integrity**

### **Read 1 Timothy 5:21-25**

- Why does Paul emphasize patience and discernment in leadership decisions?
- How can we be more patient in discernment instead of rushing a decision?
- What are some small things we can do to guard our integrity?
- Do I trust God to reveal what needs to be seen?

### **Application (10 minutes)**

- Share one relationship where you can practice honor this week.
- What area do you need to slow down and trust God's timing?

### **Action Step**

This week, intentionally honor one person—through encouragement, prayer, or practical care—and ask God to shape your heart toward greater compassion and wisdom.

### **Closing Prayer**

Pray for unity, wisdom, and Christlike love to shape every relationship in your church.